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No. 65

## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 23, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE HIRONO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas) at 2 p.m.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad."

The words of the Psalmist spring from our lips, inspired by a beautiful weekend of season and life. Last week proved heavy with young tragedy and floor debate. Move us now to thank You, Lord, for Your love endures forever. Uplifting weather and the power of prayer on Your holy day renew within us the joy of salvation.

In this week before us, may Congress build upon the cornerstone of faith and make the works of the Lord their very own work. Grant success to their efforts as they respond to the needs of Your people.

Bless the House of Representatives, all its Members and staff. Be for them, Lord, light that guides every decision and grants Your people hope and security, so together they may praise You forever.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARNAHAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### BLUE ANGEL TRAGEDY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this Saturday a sad tragedy occurred during a Blue Angels air show at the Marine Corps Air Station at Beaufort, South Carolina. Toward the end of the show, Blue Angel No. 6, piloted by Lieutenant Commander Kevin Davis of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, crashed.

Lieutenant Commander Davis did not survive. Fortunately, there were no other fatalities. Lieutenant Commander Davis was a decorated pilot who joined the Blue Angels in 2005. He served in the Navy for 11 years, 8 of them as a fighter pilot. He flew 26 combat missions in Afghanistan and the global war on terrorism. Lieutenant Commander Davis's parents, John and Ann Davis, are residents of Aiken, South Carolina. He has two brothers, Christian and Phil.

The Blue Angels are an elite team of fighter pilots to fly F/A-18s in air shows around the country. Because of their high skill level, their courage and intense practices, accidents such as this Saturday's are uncommon. The thoughts and prayers of my wife, Roxanne, and I are with the Davis family. Americans will always cherish the service of Lieutenant Commander Kevin Davis for our Nation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

### GLOBAL WARMING

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, with record temperatures set in the first half of 2006, the need for Congress

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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in this country to address global warming is more pressing than ever, especially in light of the mounting scientific reports from around the world. There is no longer any real debate within the scientific community.

There is broad scientific consensus that global warming exists, and we must act. We still have the opportunity to reverse the negative effects of global climate change. However, this must be done both here at home and in cooperation around the world. That is why, just before Earth Day this past weekend, my colleague and I, MARK KIRK, introduced H. Con. Res 104, a bipartisan resolution expressing the need for the U.S. to participate in international agreements that address global climate change and to put this Congress on record acknowledging climate change.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this bill. There is a companion in the Senate. Please join me in taking this early step to begin addressing climate change in this country and around the world.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

#### NATIONAL FOSTER PARENTS DAY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 179) expressing support for a National Foster Parents Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 179

Whereas the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem, and support, is the very foundation of our communities, and our United States;

Whereas foster families, who open their homes and hearts to children whose families are in crisis, play a vital role in helping children heal and reconnect and in launching those children into successful adulthood;

Whereas over 500,000 youth are in foster care with at least 380,000 in a family-home setting;

Whereas numerous individuals and public and private organizations work to increase public awareness of the needs of children in foster care and leaving foster care as well as of the enduring and valuable contributions of foster parents; and

Whereas those families who are able to serve a role as foster parents should be wholeheartedly encouraged to do so: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) a National Foster Parents Day should be established to recognize the contributions of foster parents across the Nation; and

(2) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for foster parents across the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would yield such time as she might consume to the sponsor of this legislation, Representative NANCY BOYDA from Kansas.

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, in the late 1980s, a Topeka couple, Clifford and Phyllis Oshel, welcomed a foster child into their homes and into their hearts. For 2 years, they provided shelter, food, and, more importantly, caring. Through their patient guidance, they led that child from a time of crisis to what he now calls "the best years of my life."

That child's name was Kevin Surbaugh. Ever since he left the Oshels' house, he has worked to repay his debt of gratitude. For 17 years, he has fought tirelessly for a national day of recognition for foster parents, one day of the year, just one day, to honor their contributions, and to respect their sacrifices.

Soon after I was sworn into Congress, Kevin approached my office and told me about his mission. At Kevin's urging, I now submit for your consideration the National Foster Parents Day resolution. I ask you to join me in saying thank you, not only to Clifford and Phyllis Oshel, but to the hundreds of thousands of foster parents across our great Nation.

When I think back to the support I received from my mom and dad, I recognize the crucial role of our parents. My mom set me on the path that has led me to Congress today. She taught me my faith. She taught me to do unto others as I would have them do unto me. She taught me to speak to everyone in a room no matter what their role or position. She also taught me never to wear white shoes after Labor Day. All of her words of wisdom led me to where I am today.

In a perfect world, every child's biological parents would play the role that my parents played for me. But sometimes a family can't provide a safe, supportive, sufficient home. When tragedy strikes or turmoil rips a family apart, children are left dislocated

and need a new place to call home, at least for a while.

Because many of these kids grew up in unstable households, some suffer emotional disturbances. Some are grieving the loss of their parents. All have endured more than any child should and all deserve a caring and supportive family. Today, over 500,000 American children still need a temporary home, a foster home. Today, 380,000 have found one, thanks to foster parents.

To the foster parents in Kansas and throughout America, today's vote in Congress is our way of honoring your efforts. You are deeply appreciated, and your contribution doesn't go unnoticed.

I hope that our vote is more than symbolic, that it encourages more families to open their homes to foster children. Caring for a foster child is one of the greatest challenges that you'll ever face, but the reward is immense. You'll help a little girl piece her life back together. You'll help a little boy feel safe and loved. You'll earn the respect of your community, your country, and of this Congress.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, there are over 500,000 children in foster care homes around the country. I am proud to support legislation recognizing the dedicated efforts put forth by foster parents.

These men and women open up their homes and their hearts to these youths by providing them with a stable, caring environment for months and, in some cases, years. H. Res. 179 establishes a National Foster Parents Day to praise their contributions to society.

These parents provide a vital role in the welfare and upbringing of children who need emotional support, guidance, and mentors. They teach children family values and morals and help them become significant members of society. Foster parents teach these values to help enable children become stable and confident adults. Children being cared for in foster homes can be traced all the way back to biblical times.

Foster care became increasingly widespread in the United States when Charles Loring Brace, a minister and director of the New York Children's Aid Society, noticed a large number of homeless immigrant children in New York. In 1953, Brace came up with a plan to provide them homes by advertising for families in other areas of the United States who were willing to take them in.

While many of these children were often indentured, Brace's movement is the origin of today's foster care program. Today, foster parents and families provide a safe and nurturing temporary home for children living in unstable conditions. There they can learn and grow until they have the opportunity to return living with their family.

□ 1415

Foster parents are crucial towards ending the vicious cycle of neglect and child abuse that endanger children's lives.

This resolution also calls on the President to issue a proclamation bringing greater awareness to foster care through various ceremonies, activities, and programs. These events educate communities and demonstrate support for foster parents who devote their lives lending a hand to children in need.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, over 500,000 children in the United States are involved in some form of foster care. Placements in foster care have increased significantly over the past 10 years. In situations of abuse and neglect, children may be removed from their parents' home by a child welfare agency and placed in foster care. Some of the reasons for foster care placement include severe behavior problems in the child and/or a variety of parental problems such as abuse, abandonment, illness, including physical or emotional problems, incarceration, AIDS, alcohol, substance abuse, and death.

The resolution we are considering today honors foster parents. Foster parents are people who open their homes and their hearts to children in need of temporary care. The task is both rewarding and difficult. As a matter of fact, I have met individuals who have adopted children. I know one police officer who has adopted 13 children, a most unusual and unbelievable man, salt of the earth, pillar of the universe.

Foster parents take children for medical care and to school events. They may facilitate visitation between the child and the birth parents in the foster home or other approved locations. Foster parents face many challenges in caring for the physical and emotional needs of children. We need more foster parents to care and nurture our children who are unable to remain in their homes. Foster parents should be commended for their big hearts and commitment to provide stable homes for children.

This is an issue that is very personal to me in a very serious way. My congressional district has more grandparents taking care of children than any other district in the Nation, and it is followed closely by two additional congressional districts in the Chicago area. I want to commend the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. I also want to commend some of the social welfare agencies that deal seriously with foster parenting for children, agencies such as Sankofa an organization that was started out of a crisis situation and now does an out-

standing job. Agencies like One Church One Child that attempts to get individuals to become foster parents to teenagers coming out of correctional facilities, which is not an easy task.

So I commend the gentlewoman from Kansas (Mrs. BOYDA) for introducing H. Res. 179, and urge its passage.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers at the moment. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I know that I had a number of individuals who had hoped to be here because they are very interested in this subject matter and who had intended to make comments, certainly Representative MELISSA BEAN who still might get here before we finish, Representative MICHELE BACHMANN from Minnesota, Representative FORTNEY PETE STARK, and Representative DENNIS CARDOZA all had statements that they wanted to present.

I would now yield to the other side to see if they have got other speakers, to see if any of my additional speakers will come before we yield back.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman, but we have no further speakers at this time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I don't think that our other speakers are going to make it; but suffice it to say that this is a very important resolution. It is a resolution that speaks to the heart and soul of America. It is a resolution that emphasizes the words of the blues singer who said once, "Who will save the world? Who's willing to try? Who will save the world that is destined to die?"

We are talking about saving the children, those unfortunate young people, many of whom their parents are incarcerated. There are more than 1.5 million children in America whose parents are in prison or in jail. They are in need of foster parenting.

So, again, not only do we urge passage, but I commend the gentlelady from Kansas, and urge listeners and watchers and viewers to see whether or not there is an opportunity for you to open your heart and your home and become a foster parent.

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 179, which calls for the establishment of a National Foster Parents Day. We should establish this day to recognize and appreciate our country's foster parents—the pillars of our child welfare system.

These are the men and women who go out of their way to help children in need—children who have been maltreated or who had to be removed from dangerous home situations. Foster parents open their hearts and their homes to these children, providing them with so much more than shelter. They allow these children to feel safe and secure once again, and help them to begin the healing process.

Children placed in foster care often come from some of the worst conditions imaginable. They have been abused, neglected, and broken down in ways beyond the physical. Many

of these children enter foster care with serious emotional damage as well. They have learned that their home, the one place where they should feel safe, can actually be more dangerous than the world outside. It is the foster parent who helps build these children back up, reminding them how love and attention feel, and reassuring them that home can once again be a comfort.

Far beyond helping a single child, quality foster care is also an investment in our communities. We have learned that being abused or neglected dramatically increases the risk that kids will grow up to commit violent crimes, which is why it is so important to have a strong foster care system to place children in as soon as possible. Research has shown that abused and neglected children who became wards of the court and initially remained at home, but were later placed in foster care because of continuing abuse or neglect, were more likely to become violent criminals than abused or neglected children who were placed in a safe foster home right away.

This is why we must continue to support our foster parents. No child should be forced to remain in a dangerous situation because there are not enough available foster homes. We must make sure that funding for foster care is never capped or reduced so that our foster families can continue to receive the resources they need to provide supportive, loving spaces for these children in need.

Additionally, we must increase our investment in preventing child abuse and neglect through programs such as the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program and in-home parent coaching programs. We also need to ensure that children in foster care find safe, permanent homes, either by reuniting them with their families or by adoption.

The success of our foster care system is vital to protecting our children, and our child welfare system relies on people like foster parents to run smoothly. These men and women on the front lines of the child welfare fight deserve all the recognition they can get. It is my hope that a National Foster Parents Day will also draw attention to the need for quality foster care and capable foster parents, and allow this system to continue benefiting our children in need.

I thank Representative BOYDA for sponsoring this legislation, and I urge its passage.

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 179, a resolution declaring the sense of the House that a National Foster Parents Day should be established.

I have a very personal interest in this issue. Seven years ago, I adopted two foster children. Since then, I have advocated on behalf of adoption and foster children in the California Assembly and in Congress.

Our Nation's foster care system was created as a temporary safe haven for abused and neglected children. Sadly, it has become a way of life for too many of our youth. On average, foster children spend nearly 3 years in the system, and move as many times from one placement to another and from school to school. Far too many spend much longer in the system, with as many as 24,000 young adults expected to "age out" of the system this year, cut loose with no family and little support. Several studies released in 2005 documented the special challenges facing these youths, especially in the areas of mental health, education and employment. They are especially poorly prepared to be self-sufficient.

Despite the sometimes valiant efforts and good intentions of social workers, judges, foster parents and others, day-to-day life for children in foster care is often filled with emotional hardship. Each year, thousands of children entering foster care will be separated from their brothers and sisters, some losing touch with each other for years to come. The trauma of foster care takes its toll on young children. Over one-third will neither earn a high school diploma nor a GED. One in four children in foster care will be incarcerated within the first 2 years after leaving the system, and over 20 percent will become homeless at some time after they turn 18.

These children are waiting. Speaking from personal experience, there is no greater joy in life than helping a child.

Every child, no matter what station they may be born to, deserves a chance to be raised in a stable and loving home. Innocent children should not be forced to bear the mistakes of others.

This is a big problem that will require bold solutions. In order to save the next generation of children, we must re-dedicate ourselves to their welfare and pledge to do whatever necessary to nurture and protect them.

This resolution, by highlighting attention to the problem, is a necessary first step. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today in support of National Foster Parents Day. This celebration honors the parents who open their hearts and their homes to children who are in need of a family. As an adoptee and member of the Adoption Caucus, myself, I am proud of the efforts Congress has made to increase adoptions both nationally and internationally, and to give special thanks to the many families who have sacrificed to provide loving homes for foster children.

Currently, thousands of children are without permanent homes. Fortunately, for many of these children there are foster parents who are eager to bring a child into their home. I cannot think of a more rewarding pursuit than creating a family and bringing hope into a child's life.

As a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, I am well aware of the positive impact foster parents have on our children and communities. I am proud of the contributions foster parents make across America, and I hope my colleagues will join with me in supporting a National Foster Parents Day.

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of establishing a National Foster Parents Day. Individuals and families that open their homes and their hearts to vulnerable children are truly deserving of our recognition.

Of the over 500,000 foster children in the United States, 380,000 live with foster parents. Without the compassion of thousands of foster parents, our foster care system would fall apart. Foster parents are the glue that holds the child welfare system together.

Every day, abused and neglected children enter the child welfare system and become the responsibility of our society. As the collective caretakers of vulnerable children, we have a moral responsibility to ensure that foster children receive the same love and opportunities that we want our own children to receive. Foster parents are the individuals that take on the immense responsibility of providing abused and neglected children with loving

homes, often with very little government support.

Too often our society and this body ignore the plight of foster children. We do so at our own peril, because foster children who are not provided with the supports they need to mature and grow do not transition into self-sufficient adults. Society bears responsibility for this failure and we also bear the costs of incarceration, homeless services, and medical care of former foster children who do not become independent. A National Foster Parent's Day will shed much needed light on the struggles of our foster children as well as the sacrifices made by the families that welcome those children into their homes and move them toward brighter futures. It will also provide a forum to discuss the improvements that must be made to our foster care system. Finally, we will encourage more families to become foster parents by recognizing the vital role that foster parents play in lives of children.

The thousands of foster parents around the country are the heroes of our child welfare system. We should provide them with every possible support, including the special recognition of a National Foster Parents Day.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 179, in support of establishing a National Foster Parents Day.

On any given day in the United States, half a million children and youth are in foster care, removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect. On average, these young people will wait more than 3½ years in the foster care system before finding a permanent home—20 percent wait 5 years or more.

Foster parents have one of the hardest tasks on earth. Children who spend many years in abusive or neglectful homes are substantially more likely than other kids to face emotional, behavioral, and academic challenges. Foster parents have the daunting task of trying to make the foster child feel at home, gain their trust, provide some sense of stability and normality, and prove that they do care.

Foster parents give of themselves unselfishly, opening their homes, families, lives, and loving arms to help protect children who are not safe in their own homes. For some children, foster parents are literally lifesaving. For too many children, what should be a short-term refuge becomes a long-term saga, involving multiple moves from one foster home to another.

I have come to appreciate that foster parenting is perhaps one of the most challenging and most important components of the child welfare system. As a foster parent, you respond to the calling to care for children, to take them into your homes, and to transition them into the next phase of their lives—sometimes for weeks, and sometimes for almost the child's entire youth. I describe this response as a calling—not a job, they don't get paid enough to call it a job; and not a choice, because if they had the wherewithal to choose, they certainly would choose not to expose themselves to all of the trials and tribulations of fostering. It is a calling, a response to some inner drive to respond to the difficulties of kids who desperately need them.

It is this selflessness which I applaud today, which I believe is deserving of national recognition. For all the time, love, and resources foster parents dedicate to their foster children,

I would simply like to say thank you. They truly are a gift to the world.

I urge my colleagues to join in support of H. Res. 179, expressing support for the establishment of a National Foster Parents Day.

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of House Resolution 179, expressing support for National Foster Parents Day.

There are over half a million children in foster care in this country. Every child deserves to have a safe and loving home, where they do not have to worry about the fear of harm or of being abandoned. While caring for a child is never easy, foster parents have additional difficulties to work through. All foster care children need special care, support and nurturing. There are a wide array of issues that these children are dealing with such as abandonment, physical or sexual abuse, undisciplined or delinquent behaviors, and physical or emotional handicaps and disabilities. Foster parents are challenged with helping their foster children feel secure and loved, while they also work through many of these difficult issues.

And while immensely challenging, foster parenting is also immeasurably rewarding. When foster parents open their homes and hearts—sacrificing, while giving support and love—they change children's lives. Many foster parents go on to adopt the children that they have in their home—60 percent of children who are adopted after they have been in foster care are adopted by foster parents. These children are given what every child deserves—a permanent home and a loving family.

It is important to recognize and honor the crucial role that foster parents play in shaping the lives of hundreds of thousands of children each year. Because of this, I stand here today in support of a National Foster Parents Day, to honor their invaluable sacrifice, dedication, and selfless commitment to improving the lives of children.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill, to express support for a National Foster Parents' Day.

Today, there are more than 500,000 children in foster care nationwide.

Most of these children come from extremely troubled homes, and compared to the other children, they are more likely to suffer educationally, socially, and emotionally.

This is an issue that is very close to my heart. Over the years, my husband Marcus and I have cared for 23 foster children.

I know from experience that foster parents have to work diligently with local, State, and Federal agencies as well as within their homes to respond to each child's individual needs.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Representative BOYDA for bringing attention to the foster care system, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 179.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### ATANACIO HARO-MARIN POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 625) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4230 Maine Avenue in Baldwin Park, California, as the "Atanacio Haro-Marin Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 625

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. ATANACIO HARO-MARIN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4230 Maine Avenue in Baldwin Park, California, shall be known and designated as the "Atanacio Haro-Marin Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Atanacio Haro-Marin Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 625, which names the postal facility in Baldwin Park, California, after Atanacio Haro-Marin.

H.R. 625, which was introduced by Representative HILDA SOLIS on January 22, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on March 29, 2007 by voice vote. This measure, which has been cosponsored by the 52 members, has the support of the entire California congressional delegation. Army Sergeant Atanacio Haro-Marin, age 27, of Baldwin Park, California, was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas. He was killed while manning the checkpoint when his unit came under attack from gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades south of Balad, Iraq on June 3, 2003.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Sergeant Marin was born in Momax, Mexico, and lived there with his mother while his father worked in California picking fruit and doing construction jobs to support seven children. The family reunited in Los Angeles when Sergeant Marin was 2, and they later moved to suburban Baldwin Park. He will be remembered as a proud and courageous soldier who was living out a long-held dream of serving in the U.S. military.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague for seeking to honor the memory, legacy, and contributions of Atanacio Haro-Marin, and urge swift passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Atanacio Marin, or as he was better known, Nacho, by his friends, typifies the soldiers that come from California. So many of them are from Los Angeles and surrounding areas, so many have stories like Nacho has: one in which he was born in Mexico; one in which his family came here for a better life; one in which he became integrated with the community that he grew up in; one in which he graduated from Sierra Vista High School and was on the track team and ran in the Los Angeles marathon; one in which he had a desire to serve his country; one in which he joined the National Guard after completing high school and decided to devote his life to serving the military.

After his tour with the National Guard ended, Nacho transferred to the regular Army and was assigned to Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Hood, Texas. In January, 2 months before reporting for duty in the Middle East, Sergeant Marin was able to spend time with his close-knit family. While he was in Iraq he continued to remain close to his family. He called home often and characteristically sent his mother a Mother's Day card that read, "Don't worry, be happy." Tragically, those uplifting words were some of his last.

A checkpoint was manned by the sergeant and came under fire on June 3, 2003. Unfortunately, this brave young man did not survive the attack. He was only 27 years old.

The post office we are naming today in Baldwin Park we are naming not just as a tribute to this fine soldier, but as a tribute to those who have gone to serve their country in this war and, like so many others, have an American story.

Nacho's American story is the story of California, it is a story of the war that is not often talked on this front, of patriotism, of devotion to family, of devotion to this Nation. And it is so appropriate that we name a post office after this fine young man from California. So I join with the majority in urging its swift passage.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I had expected that Representative SOLIS, who is the sponsor of this legislation, would have been here, but maybe she had some difficulty getting back from way out west in California today.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time and urge passage of this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 625.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SERGEANT DENNIS J. FLANAGAN LECANTO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1402) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South Lecanto Highway in Lecanto, Florida, as the "Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Lecanto Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H.R. 1402

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SERGEANT DENNIS J. FLANAGAN LECANTO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South Lecanto Highway in Lecanto, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Lecanto Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Lecanto Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

□ 1430

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?



There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On September 11, 2001, America was forever changed. The rancid acts of terrorism that occurred on this day struck a chord within the people. For one moment in time we were not a hyphenated people. We were not Irish-American, African-American, Asian-American, Greek-American. We were simply American.

It was with a resounding spirit of patriotism that Dennis J. Flanagan went to his local recruitment station and took the vow to serve his country. As the President waged war against our terrorist adversaries, Sergeant Flanagan took his place as a member of the air assault infantry that invaded Iraq in 2003. He returned to Iraq in September for his second tour of duty and was killed when his vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb in Hawijah, Iraq, on January 19, 2006.

Madam Speaker, I offer my condolences to the family of Sergeant Flanagan and hope that my colleagues will vote in the affirmative to pass this measure that will allow the Lecanto, Florida, post office to bear the name of Sergeant Dennis James Flanagan.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I join with my colleague in supporting this naming of the Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Post Office.

Sergeant Flanagan grew up in Florida and attended high school there. He was active and enjoyed sports. He ran cross-country, played soccer, and was a cadet commander at the school's Civil Air Patrol squadron. He loved learning about American history and hoped that one day he would be a history professor.

His commitment to military service began at an early age. He was an active member of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, or Junior ROTC, where he achieved the rank of first lieutenant during his junior year of high school. He began classes in Central Florida Community College, but enlisted in the Army a week after September 11.

Sergeant Flanagan was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He fought with the air assault infantry that led the initial attack in 2003.

Wise beyond his years, he understood that victory could not be attained without action. He knew the dangers of war and believed in serving his country. After completing his first tour of duty, he re-enlisted in September of 2005 for a second tour. As an experienced soldier, he hoped he could act as a mentor for new soldiers, and he wanted to train the Iraqi Army recruits.

On January 20, 2006, Sergeant Flanagan was on patrol in Iraq in his Humvee with three other U.S. soldiers

and a driver when a roadside bomb, or an IED, was exploded near their vehicle. All soldiers were wearing protective body armor. However, only the driver survived the blast. Sergeant Flanagan was only 22 when he died.

Today we honor the life of Sergeant Flanagan, a soldier who strongly believed in the fight for freedom. He was an American hero.

Madam Speaker, I ask all Members to join with me in supporting this naming and this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill, H.R. 1402, the Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Lecanto Post Office Building piece of legislation. It will rename the South Lecanto Highway Post Office in Lecanto, Florida, after Army Sergeant Flanagan, who was killed by terrorist insurgents in 2006 while on patrol in Iraq.

I actually attended the services out at Arlington Cemetery. I was with the family. I also attended the service for the young man that was held in Citrus County.

In my district office, I have a photograph that his mom gave me that was taken at the service. And it appears as if there is this rainbow over the marker. It is truly a tribute to this 2001 graduate of Lecanto High School because Sergeant Flanagan was an active member of the Junior ROTC, and he achieved the rank of lieutenant in his first year.

Within a week following the attacks of September 11, 2001, on our country, he enlisted in the Army and began his first tour of duty in Iraq. Sergeant Flanagan then re-enlisted for a second tour in Iraq in September of 2005. Tragically, he was killed, along with three other U.S. soldiers, when an IED hit a Humvee in which he was traveling. Only the Humvee driver survived the incident.

Sergeant Flanagan was a soldier who firmly believed in our mission in Iraq and in advancing the cause of freedom. Even as a young boy, his parents told me that Dennis knew he wanted to be a soldier in the U.S. Armed Forces.

A soldier who felt he must defend and fight for freedom, Sergeant Flanagan received glowing recommendations from his superior officers and from fellow officers. One of the principal reasons that he re-enlisted was to act as a mentor to newly enlisted soldiers and to help train Iraqi Army recruits.

Speaking of his future as a soldier and a patriot, Sergeant Flanagan once mused in a poem that he was going to save for his son, and those words read: "And now, my son, I pray to thee, never ever forget me; that I died a soldier's death to keep you free with my last breath."

His mom shared those words with me, and I think it is appropriate that they be in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

In times when children and families need role models to look up to, Sergeant Flanagan was a true American hero. Our community, certainly Citrus County and all of Florida, mourn his loss.

We hope that in renaming this post office we will memorialize this brave young man, Sergeant Dennis Flanagan, and never, ever forget his sacrifice for our Nation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I simply want to commend the gentlewoman from Florida for introducing this resolution, which speaks directly to the greatest gift that one can give, and that is to give his or her life for the benefit of their fellow man and woman.

A young man, who had no concern, really, for himself, but was concerned for the country.

I urge passage of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers here today on this fine young gentleman. But, in closing, I can think of no more appropriate statement on the United States Armed Forces than to have a gentleman with a classic Irish name from Florida be honored on the same day for another post office as a gentleman born in Mexico, growing up in California, whose father was a day laborer. I think that speaks volumes about the kinds of men and women who are defending our country, not questioning anything except that their country asked for them and they have followed and, unfortunately, two have fallen.

I urge passage of both of these pieces of legislation. I thank the majority for moving them in an expeditious fashion.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1402, the Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Lecanto Post Office Building.

H.R. 1402 will rename the South Lecanto Highway post office in Lecanto, FL, after Army Sergeant Flanagan, who was killed by terrorist insurgents in 2006 while on patrol in Iraq.

A 2001 graduate of Lecanto High School, Sergeant Flanagan was an active member of the Junior ROTC, achieving the rank of First Lieutenant his junior year.

Within a week following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, he enlisted in the Army and began his first tour of duty in Iraq in 2003. Sergeant Flanagan then re-enlisted for a second tour in Iraq in September of 2005.

Tragically, he was killed January 20, 2006, along with 3 other U.S. soldiers when an IED hit a Humvee in which he was traveling. Only the Humvee driver survived the incident.

Sgt. Flanagan was a soldier who firmly believed in our mission in Iraq and in advancing the cause of freedom. As a young boy, Sgt. Flanagan knew that he wanted to be a soldier

in the U.S. Armed Forces. A soldier who felt we must defend America and fight for freedom, Sgt. Flanagan received glowing recommendations from his superior officers and fellow soldiers. One of the principle reasons that he re-enlisted was to act as a mentor to the newly enlisted soldiers and to help train Iraqi army recruits.

Speaking of his future as a soldier and a patriot, Sgt. Flanagan once wrote a poem that included the words, "And now, my son, I pray to thee. Never ever forget me; that I died a soldier's death, to keep you free with my last breath."

In times when children and families need role models to look up to and emulate, Sergeant Flanagan was a true American hero. Our community feels his loss immensely.

I hope that in renaming this post office, we will memorialize Sergeant Flanagan's courage and never forget his sacrifice for this great Nation.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. We have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1402.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### RACHEL CARSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1434) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 896 Pittsburgh Street in Springdale, Pennsylvania, as the "Rachel Carson Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1434

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. RACHEL CARSON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 896 Pittsburgh Street in Springdale, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "Rachel Carson Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Rachel Carson Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 1434, which names the postal facility in Springdale, Pennsylvania after Rachel Carson.

H.R. 1434, which was introduced by Representative JASON ALTMIRE of Pennsylvania on March 9, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on March 29, 2007, by voice vote. This measure, which has been cosponsored by 40 Members, has the support of the entire Pennsylvania congressional delegation.

Starting in the mid-1940s, Ms. Carson became concerned about the use of newly invented pesticides, especially dichloro diphenyl trichloroethane, better known as DDT. This turned into an amazing thesis she entitled "Silent Spring." "Silent Spring" focused on the environment and the effect of pesticides on humans. This was known as Carson's greatest work. She worked to defend the claims in "Silent Spring" until her death. It is believed that Carson's "Silent Spring" was the catalyst for the United States taking a more in-depth look at the use of pesticides, as well as the founding of government agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague for seeking to honor the memory, legacy, and contributions of Rachel Carson and urge swift passage of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to speak in total support of the naming of this post office.

As a member of the committee, I thoroughly support the fact that we have not yet done enough to recognize some of the brave people from the past who created the government, the good parts of government that we take credit for every day. Certainly, I believe this is a good example. Not only was she, in fact, the person most responsible for recognizing the dangers of DDT and leading to the banning of it, but, quite frankly, Rachel Carson, in her novel "Silent Spring," brought to the forefront the very concept of writing works which are widely read, and, in fact, can make a real difference in America's point of view.

□ 1445

Rachel Carson was born in 1907 in a rural area of Springdale, Pennsylvania, where she first acquired her interest in nature. Majoring in marine biology, with a strong background in creative writing, she graduated from Chatham College in 1929 magna cum laude. Despite financial difficulties, Ms. Carson continued her studies at Johns Hopkins University, graduating in 1932 with a graduate degree in zoology. While expanding her great passion about zoology and other living things, Carson taught at Johns Hopkins and at the University of Maryland while pursuing her doctorate degree.

Due to financial circumstances, Carson found a part-time position as a writer for radio scripts at the United States Bureau of Fisheries. She was faced with sexist resistance, not uncommon at that time, not uncommon at this time, as she took the civil service exam, but after obtaining a high score, she was given a full-time position as a junior aquatic biologist at the Bureau of Fisheries. At the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, Ms. Carson submitted one of her radio scripts, named "Undersea," to the Atlantic Monthly, which was published in 1937. Publishers, impressed with her writing, encouraged her to expand the article into book entitled *Under the Sea-Wind*.

Carson continued to write. Her second book, *The Sea Around Us*, was on the New York Times best seller list for 86 weeks and won the 1952 National Book Award and earned her two honorary doctorates. The book was then made into an Oscar-winning documentary. Her writing achievements did not end here, as she went on to publish a third and fourth book and write numerous magazine articles.

Ms. Carson's fourth and legendary book, *Silent Spring*, greatly influenced the way Americans thought about the environment and was discussed by President John F. Kennedy. One of the main themes of her novel was how all aspects of the environment were connected. She explained that when one uses a pesticide to exterminate a particular organism, the poison travels up the entire food chain, ultimately affecting large animals and humans. With the publication of *Silent Spring*, Carson was able to draw in reputable scientists in support of her cause of responsible DDT usage and help spread awareness of its impact on the environment.

Rachel Carson was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and received many honors, including the Audubon Medal and the Cullen Medal of the American Geographical Society, for her achievements. Unfortunately, poor health kept Ms. Carson from witnessing the ban on DDT in the United States, as she passed away in 1964. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously in 1980.

Carson's legacy lives on as the quiet and consistent voice urging people to

come to terms with nature. The major conference room at the headquarters of the Environmental Protection Agency is named the Rachel Carson Room. The Rachel Carson State Office Building is located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and is home to the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. There are also numerous bridges, parks, and schools which bear her name as well.

To further recognize and honor her contributions in the centennial celebration of her birth and to honor her life as a teacher, scientist, environmentalist, activist, and, most of all, writer, please join me in supporting and passing H.R. 1434.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this bill, one of the outstanding new Members of the House, Representative JASON ALTMIRE, from Pennsylvania.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois and the gentleman from California for their very eloquent remarks.

This is a very special day for me. I grew up in southwestern Pennsylvania, right across the river from Springdale, Pennsylvania, where Rachel Carson was born and raised and where she is truly a legendary figure. She is an icon in western Pennsylvania, and this is a very special year for Rachel Carson's memory because May 27, 2007, would have been Rachel Carson's 100th birthday.

And she has received tremendous honors throughout her life. We do have, as the gentleman said, bridges named after her and schools and other things. But I can think of no greater representation for the beginning of Rachel Carson and the beginning of the modern environmental movement than to have the post office in her hometown of Springdale named after her. And, ironically, Springdale itself last year celebrated its centennial, so she was born in the very early days of Springdale. And this bill has widespread support throughout the district that I represent, the Fourth Congressional District where Springdale is located, but also throughout all of western Pennsylvania and all of Pennsylvania. And I do thank the gentleman for his kind remarks. But I wanted to talk a little bit about Rachel Carson.

As I said, she was born in 1907 in Springdale. She graduated from the Pennsylvania College for Women, which currently is known as Chatham College. And Rachel Carson got her degree in English, which would serve her well in her writing career over the years. She earned her master's degree in zoology from Johns Hopkins University, so she has very strong ties to Maryland, and I am going to talk a little bit more about that because she taught zoology at the University of Maryland, right down the road from

where we are right now. And while she continued her studies at the Marine Biological Laboratories in Woodshole, Massachusetts, she continued her teaching career. So in the very early days, she was getting to know the environment and getting a greater understanding of the world around her and what was to come in her life.

Now, according to Time Magazine, "It was there in her early twenties that she first saw and became enchanted with the enormous mysteries of the sea." And as I talked about, this was a lifelong passion for Rachel Carson. Her early writings at the time focused on the waters and the seas, and I believe a lot of that has to do with her upbringing in Springdale, Pennsylvania, because the Allegheny River flows right through the town there, right along the river, and she spent a lot of time studying the river in her youth growing up. And the Rachel Carson homestead, which is her childhood home, has been restored. And there is an active and ongoing presence there in the town, and the stories are legendary about her spending hours and hours of time sitting there on the riverbank, studying the waters and thinking about it. And those who knew her at the time knew that that was her passion and that was going to be the direction of her career and her life.

In 1936 she went to work as a junior aquatic biologist at the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, again very suitable to someone with that level of interest and that educational background. She was the second woman in the history of the agency to hold a full-time professional position. So she was a trailblazer right from the start. And her early writings, as the gentleman from California mentioned, *Under the Sea-Wind*, *The Sea Around Us*, and *The Edge of the Sea*, celebrated the wonders of nature and continued her ongoing expertise and interest in aquatics and the sea. *The Sea Around Us* won the John Burroughs Medal, which was then the equivalent of what is today the National Book Award. So here we see the beginnings of a writing career. And this is where her English degree comes back, and she now has expertise in not only zoology and water and the Bureau of Fisheries as her profession, but she begins a long and fruitful career as an author, so she wins what is then the equivalent of the National Book Award. And within the first year, this was in the 1930s, that book sold over 200,000 copies.

Rachel Carson is most famous, of course, for her book, *Silent Spring*, which was published in 1962, and it criticizes the use of pesticides, particularly DDT, but not exclusively. It is widely created with launching the modern environmental movement, including Earth Day, which just over this past weekend we celebrated Earth Day all across the country while Rachel Carson is credited with the founding of that movement as well. So, again, this is a very timely measure today, and I do encourage my colleagues to support it.

I did want to mention that, unfortunately, it was not long after the publishing of *Silent Spring* that Rachel Carson took ill and breast cancer took her life at the early age of 56, in 1964. But that did not end the legacy of Rachel Carson. In 1980 she was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which all of our Members here know that is an incredible honor to be bestowed upon someone. And in 1999 Time Magazine recognized Rachel Carson as one of the 20th century's 100 most influential Americans, again a fantastic and well-deserved honor.

So, again, throughout western Pennsylvania this year, her 100th birthday we are celebrating Rachel Carson. And it is important, having just had Earth Day over the weekend and the increasing awareness of the environment around us, that we do allow Springdale Township, where this is a very popular measure and something that we have been waiting to see this day come. I would ask my colleagues to show their support and recognize the tremendous contributions that Rachel Carson has had not only for western Pennsylvania, not only for the United States of America, but around the world. She truly is an icon, and she truly did change the world.

So at this time I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois for allowing me to bring this bill forward. I thank the committee, and I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure now to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding me the time.

Just a few points about Rachel Carson and *Silent Spring* and the profound transformational effect that that book had on our society.

She was a Federal employee. She worked for the predecessor of the Fish and Wildlife Service. She was recognized, even as a child, as an outstanding writer. But she saw something that she knew was wrong, and she dedicated her life to changing the future for subsequent generations of Americans and really changed the world in terms of its view of pesticides.

At that time it wasn't just that pesticides were being poured all over farms but in our own residential neighborhoods. I can remember, I am old enough to remember, the big clouds of pesticides, and we would run in and out of them, and we would follow the pesticide truck on bicycles, and we had no idea this was poisonous stuff that was being put into our lungs, our atmosphere. And yet at that time the pesticide industry came up with a doctor, he was on television, everybody watched him as he said that she was absolutely wrong. There was no substance to her allegations; that if people



listened seriously to her, it would cause widespread disease and poverty all over the world.

□ 1500

And he said that the scientific evidence shows that there is no harm to these pesticides, these toxic chemicals. One might refer to that when we look at some of the other trailblazers who had the courage to speak up, despite those who too readily condemn them because they are making a profit from current conditions. Climate change, endocrine disruptions and the like. She had the kind of courage and intellect and goodness of spirit to change the world. I am very pleased that she is getting a little recognition from the Congress today.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I think this is so appropriate that we consider today, at a time when we are looking at ever more vexing issues of the use of pesticides, the need for pesticides, the international conventions. I will be part of a group, House and Senate, that will be in Belgium this weekend where one of the major topics will be meeting with the Europeans on the next step in finding ways to limit or eliminate various pesticides, in addition to the constant effort to deal with ozone-depleting chemicals.

We are, today, as a result of her work, we are in fact smarter in the way we look at the chemicals that bring good things to life, as I think that we once said. We don't assume they are bad. We do test to make sure that what they do good for us is well measured against the side effects. That was a standard created as a result of Rachel Carson. We are honored to have had somebody who worked for the Federal Government, who published and who cared and who persevered throughout her entire life.

I join with the majority in urging the swift passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, to close, let me just thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for introducing this legislation, and the gentleman from California for his eloquent statements in support of it.

And I sort of reflected, as I listened to Representative MORAN, that it is good to have all of the eloquence and all of the youth, but to have been there and be old enough to remember, I join with him because I remember DDT as I was growing up in rural America, and the utilization of it as people would spray their crops and use it to fight pesticides, but were endangering themselves. And there was a great deal of fear and consternation.

So again, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for introducing this legislation. I urge its support.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1434.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE WITH RESPECT TO RAISING AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGING PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 289) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to raising awareness and encouraging prevention of sexual assault in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 289

Whereas, on average, a person is sexually assaulted in the United States every two-and-a-half minutes;

Whereas the Department of Justice reports that 191,670 people in the United States were sexually assaulted in 2005;

Whereas 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape;

Whereas children and young adults are most at risk, as 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18, and 80 percent are under the age of 30;

Whereas sexual assault affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, age, ethnic, and economic groups in the United States;

Whereas only 41 percent of sexual assault victims pursue prosecution by reporting their attack to law enforcement agencies;

Whereas two-thirds of sexual crimes are committed by persons who are not strangers to the victims;

Whereas sexual assault survivors suffer emotional scars long after the physical scars have healed;

Whereas prevention education programs carried out by rape crisis and women's health centers have the potential to reduce the prevalence of sexual assault in their communities;

Whereas because of recent advances in DNA technology, law enforcement agencies have the potential to identify the rapists in tens of thousands of unsolved rape cases;

Whereas aggressive prosecution can incarcerate rapists and therefore prevent them from committing further crimes;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all survivors of sexual assault through the National Sexual Assault Hotline, more than 1,000 rape crisis centers across the United States, and other organizations that provide services to assist survivors of sexual assault;

Whereas the rate of sexual assaults has decreased by half in the last decade; and

Whereas April is recognized as "National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity to educate the people of the United States about sexual violence and to encourage the prevention of sexual assault, the improved treatment of its survivors, and the prosecution of its perpetrators;

(B) it is appropriate to properly acknowledge the more than 20,000,000 men and women who have survived sexual assault in the United States and salute the efforts of survivors, volunteers, and professionals who combat sexual assault;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about sexual assault, providing information and treatment to its survivors, and increasing the number of successful prosecutions of its perpetrators;

(D) public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to increase the percentage of sexual assault cases that result in the prosecution and incarceration of the offenders;

(2) the House of Representatives strongly recommends national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, colleges and universities, and the media to promote, through National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, awareness of sexual violence and strategies to decrease the incidence of sexual assault; and

(3) the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 289 recognizes April as National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. The purpose of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month is to increase the public's awareness and understanding about sexual violence in our society in order to encourage and support prevention of sexual assault.

The United States has the highest rate of any country publishing such statistics. A person is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2½ minutes. The National Institute of Justice estimates that over 300,000 women and 90,000 men are forcibly raped each

year in the United States; but according to the American Medical Association, these numbers are lower than national incidents of rape or attempted rape.

Approximately 17.7 million American women and 2.8 American men have been victims of rape or attempted rape at some point during their lives, according to the Bureau of Justice statistics. That equates to one in every six women and one in every 33 men. The National Center for Victims of Crime indicate that among women who have been raped, 39 percent have been raped more than once. Most victims are children or young adults. Some 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18; 80 percent are under the age of 30.

There are no significant differences in the rate of sexual assault among racial and ethnic groups, as sexual assault affects all populations roughly equally, though its impact is felt disproportionately by those least able to protect themselves. For example, persons with disabilities are estimated to be one and a half to five times more at risk of sexual assault than the general population. Between one-third and two-thirds of known sexual assault victims are age 15 or younger, according to a 2000 study by Population Reports, and women age 16 to 25 are three times more likely to be raped than those of higher age groups, according to the Bureau of Justice statistics. Also, the studies indicate that those in extreme poverty are twice as likely to be victimized as other women.

Most sexual assaults are not committed by strangers. Studies show that 70 percent of victims know their attackers, and this contributes to the underreporting of sexual assault. At the same time, studies show that 90 percent of those who knew their attackers did not report the crime. The study also found that most sexual assaults occur in the victim's home or that of a friend, relative, or acquaintance.

The consequences of sexual assault for victims are enormous and go well beyond physical effects. One-third of victims suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, according to the National Victims Center; one-third seriously consider suicide; 13 percent actually attempt suicide.

The roots of sexual assault violence are cultural. A 1991 study by the Jacqueline White and John Humphrey study found that 56 percent of high school girls and 76 percent of high school boys thought that forcible sex was acceptable under some circumstances. Some 51 percent of boys and 41 percent of girls thought that certain circumstances included when a boy "spent a lot of money on the girl." Thirty-one percent of boys and 32 percent of girls thought that forced sex was acceptable when women had had past sexual experiences. Eighty-seven percent of boys and 79 percent of girls thought it was acceptable when a man

and woman were married. Sixty-five percent of boys, 47 percent of girls thought it acceptable if a boy and a girl had been dating for more than 6 months.

So, Madam Speaker, it is easy to see where there is need to focus much of our awareness and prevention efforts.

Sexual assault is a threat to the public health and public safety. It demands a coordinated response in the form of awareness, prevention, aggressive prosecution and service provision. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center, a project of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, estimates that there are 1,400 community crisis centers providing services to victims of sexual assault across the country. Such efforts have made a difference. Over the past decade, we have reduced the rate of rapes and attempted rapes by half. Yet at half, our highest level, we are still the highest rate of sexual assault in the world. So much more needs to be done to further address the scourge in our society.

So, Madam Speaker, as we observe National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, it is our hope that a month of intensified awareness efforts combined with a broad spectrum of sexual violence prevention work throughout the year will bring us closer to ending and eradicating sexual assault in our society. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 289, which is intended to raise awareness of the problem of sexual assault in the United States and encourage ways to prevent it.

The statistics outlined in the resolution speak for themselves and are nothing less than horrific. A person is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2½ minutes. Children and young adults are the most at risk. Forty-four percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18.

The emotional and physical scars from sexual assaults exact a terrible toll on our loved ones, our families, our communities, and our country. In my view, we can and we must do better. We have made important strides in this battle. We have expanded the use of DNA to solve sexual assault crimes, reduced the backlog in the testing of rape cases, and solved more sexual assault crimes, and ensuring that those who commit these heinous offense are put behind bars.

Last year, we passed the Adam Walsh Act to protect our children from sexual predators. Over 100,000 sex offenders were lost or unaccounted for by the States. The Adam Walsh Act will fix that problem and make sure that sex offenders are registered, that the public is aware of sex offenders in their communities, and help parents protect their children.

In my home State of West Virginia, domestic violence complaints have increased 400 percent since 1989. More and more, victims are feeling empowered to approach law enforcement officers with these problems. Although we all would like to see an end to domestic violence, it is a good step that more and more victims are reporting the crimes committed against them, allowing the perpetrators to be tried for their crimes. We must continue to work with victims, helping them come forward with their complaints. This can often be a difficult task, especially when the person committing the crime is a spouse, companion or family member, which is sadly often the case.

Madam Speaker, this resolution recognizes the important role that awareness and prevention can play in reducing the incidence of sexual assault. The crime of sexual assault is so hurtful and so tragic, we must redouble our efforts and make sure that we use every tool at our disposal to protect everyone from this horrible crime. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of the resolution, my distinguished colleague from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Virginia for yielding to me.

As the sponsor of this legislation, I also want to thank the Democratic leadership for bringing it to the floor, because, Madam Speaker, sexual violence is an epidemic in this country, it is a threat to our public health and our public safety that demands our attention. One in six women and one in 33 men in the United States will be sexually assaulted during their lifetime. This is the highest rate of any country publishing statistics on sexual assault. A woman is raped in this country every 2½ minutes. We must do more to stop that. Responding to sexual assault must start with prevention.

The roots of sexual violence are cultural. A study of American high school students found that the majority of girls and three-quarters of boys thought that forced sex was acceptable under some circumstances, including when a woman had had past sexual experiences or when a boy spent a lot of money on the girl. Statistics like this make it tragically unsurprising that 70 percent of assaults are perpetrated by someone that is known by the victim.

□ 1515

Fifty-five percent of rapes, the majority of rapes, occur in the home of the victim or a friend, relative or acquaintance.

We must begin with prevention, because the consequences of sexual violence are so severe and because it is a crime whose impact is felt disproportionately by those least able to protect themselves: the young, the disabled,

the impoverished. In addition to suffering the physical effects of these terrible acts of violence, a third of victims suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder, a third seriously consider suicide, and 13 percent actually attempt it. While we hope and work for a day when sexual violence might be eradicated completely from our society, we must also deal with the consequences of these crimes, working to provide assistance to victims and aggressively prosecuting offenders.

National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month is dedicated to increasing the public's understanding about sexual violence in our society. This effort can help communities support rape and sexual assault survivors, victims and their families, as well as the individuals and agencies that provide rape crisis intervention and prevention services throughout the year.

More than 1,000 rape crisis centers nationwide educate their communities about the prevention of sexual violence and provide services to victims. In Virginia, for example, these centers serve approximately 3,000 victims of rape every year. In my district, the SARA Program at the Alexandria Office on Women supports survivors throughout their healing process, through hotline counseling and support groups and innovative programs like "Living Out Loud," a performing arts program for survivors of sexual violence looking to find new joy in life after recovering from rape or sexual assault. The person who founded that is an inspiration to everyone and brings back lives that have been so profoundly and adversely affected by this experience.

Madam Speaker, National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month is a chance for us to pause and consider the enormity of the impact of these crimes on our society and the status of our efforts to end it. I commend these public health, social services, and law enforcement professionals working in our communities to respond to sexual violence and those educators and advocates working to prevent it, and I encourage my colleagues to stand with us in rededicating ourselves to efforts to end these crimes on our streets, in our schools and in our lives.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I would like to close with a strong statement that this resolution recognizes the important role of awareness in prevention of sexual assault in this country. It is a scourge on our Nation, it is a scourge on our young people, our women and other victims, and I urge all Members to join together to pass this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume just to thank my colleague from Virginia for introducing the resolution and to urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 289, to raise

awareness and encourage prevention of sexual assault in the United States and support the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

Violence against women—rape, sexual assault and domestic violence—affects women worldwide. Violence not only affects women in the home, but in the workplace, school and every arena of life. Having served as Johnson County District Attorney for 12 years, I know first hand the devastating consequences of domestic and sexual violence, assault, rape and child abuse and incest. Those experiences encouraged me to become a cofounder of SAFEHOME, a local shelter for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, and highlighted the importance of public awareness, effective prevention policies and law enforcement working hand in hand to stop these horrific crimes.

Sexual assault is an epidemic that knows no boundaries on the basis of age, socioeconomic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background. My home State of Kansas is no exception. In 2005, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation reported over 1,000 reported incidents of rape. And that number cannot possibly reflect the harsh reality of how many incidents occurred but were not reported. The tragedy of injustice exacerbates the victimization.

A person is sexually assaulted in the United States every two-and-a-half minutes; 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is essential to bring attention to this problem, educate the public, and help protect survivors from future victimization and prevent the continuation of the cycle of violence from generation to generation. Protecting and helping survivors, as well as creating an environment where survivors can seek justice, is the key to removing sex offenders from public, so that they do not have the opportunity to assault again.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 289, in support of the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, to support programs to help survivors heal and prevent incidents in the future.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 289.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 119) supporting the mission and goals of National Crime Victims' Rights Week in order to increase public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of victims and survivors of crime in the United States during such week and throughout the year.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 119

Whereas currently in the United States, there are millions of victims and survivors of crime whose physical, financial, emotional, and spiritual needs are entitled to the attention and support of individuals and communities across the United States;

Whereas the collaborative efforts of criminal and juvenile justice professionals, victim service providers, public policy makers, allied professionals, and the Office for Victims of Crime and the Office on Violence Against Women within the Department of Justice have helped enhance public safety and victim awareness in various communities of all sizes across the United States;

Whereas since 1984, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) has collected \$8 billion in fines, fees, and assessments on individuals convicted of Federal crimes to support crime victim compensation and victim assistance programs nationwide;

Whereas there are over 10,000 system-based and community-based victim assistance programs that provide greatly needed interventions, support, and justice system advocacy to crime victims and survivors, including 4,400 programs that receive VOCA funding;

Whereas the theme of the 2007 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, called "Victims' Rights: Every Victim, Every Time", recognizes that all victims and survivors of crimes deserve to have victims' rights and access to victims' services, and recognizes the ongoing efforts of countless victim service providers, justice professionals, and allied professionals and volunteers who selflessly dedicate their lives to helping victims and survivors of crimes to exercise their victims rights and access important victim services;

Whereas, in 2007, the week of April 22 through April 28, is dedicated as the national observance during which crime victims' and survivors' rights, needs, and services will be recognized; and

Whereas during the 2007 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus will honor a victim or survivor of crime, a victim service provider, and an allied professional and innovators in public policy development whose efforts on behalf of crime victims and survivors are visionary and exemplary: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the mission and goals of the 2007 National Crime Victims' Rights Week in order to increase public awareness of the impact of crime on victims and survivors of crime, and of the rights and needs of such victims and survivors; and

(2) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Office for Victims of Crime in the Department of Justice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 119 recognizes this week as National Crime Victims' Rights Week in order to increase public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of victims and survivors of crime in the United States during this week and throughout the year. Obviously, we are very attuned to victims this week as we mourn the tragic deaths and injuries of the Virginia Tech shootings last week, though this resolution was scheduled for victims generally, without any reference to specific victims.

In 2003, the last year for which we have compiled figures, there were 24.2 million criminal victimizations of people over the age of 12 in the United States. Of those, 5.4 million were violent victimizations and 18.6 were property victimizations. Unfortunately, there were many more crimes than those figures suggest. It is estimated that only 48 percent of violent crimes and only 38 percent of property crimes are reported to police in each year.

We talked about the large group of victims in the resolution preceding this one involving sexual assault victims. Clearly we want to be aware of the need of victims of all crimes and do whatever we can, not only to address victimizations that occur but also to prevent the crimes occurring in the first place. Supporting the mission and goals of the National Crime Victims' Rights Week will increase the public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of victims and survivors of crime, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 119, honoring National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This resolution supports the missions and goals of National Crime Victims' Rights Week to increase public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of crime victims in the United States during this week and throughout the year.

The theme of the 2007 National Crime Victims' Rights Week is "Victims Rights: Every Victim, Every Time." In honor of every victim, we renew our commitment to protecting the rights of crime victims and to providing them effective assistance programs. We also

commend the countless numbers of professionals and volunteers who dedicate their lives to helping victims and survivors of crime.

This week is marked by many special events held across the Nation, including the national observance and candlelight ceremony held here in Washington, DC, a 5K run/walk and Victims' Rights Fair in Sierra Vista, Arizona, a Crime Victims' Rights Rally in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and many more.

While these events provide excellent opportunities to focus on victims rights, this is an issue that requires our utmost attention year-round. That is why it is encouraging that there are over 10,000 victims assistance programs providing emotional, financial, physical and spiritual support every day.

As the gentleman from Virginia said, a week honoring the victims and survivors of crime is especially poignant following last week's tragedy at Virginia Tech. The loss of innocent lives affects so many others who are left behind. The outpouring of prayers and condolences reminds us that victims and survivors of crime will not be forgotten and will continue to receive much needed community support.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA), the author of this resolution.

Mr. COSTA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, as a cochairman of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, along with Congressman TED POE, we rise today in support of House Resolution 119, the 2007 National Crime Victims' Rights Week resolution, expressing the sense of Congress' support for Victims' Rights Week and the efforts to increase public awareness in the United States and throughout the country with everything that is occurring, as my colleagues have indicated.

I also want to thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee and Congressman SCOTT for their leadership on victims issues and for helping bring this bill to the floor today, as well as the gentlewoman from West Virginia.

Allow me to begin by sending our thoughts and prayers to those victims, the wounded, the friends and the families who were touched by the tragedy at Virginia Tech last week. We as Members of Congress and throughout the country are wearing these ribbons symbolic to remind all of us that in our Nation, and in the world, crime knows no boundaries.

Victims of crimes are sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, parents, neighbors and friends. They are those who are struggling to survive the aftermath of crime, and therefore they deserve our support. They deserve the services to help them cope.

When I came to Washington 3 years ago, I discovered that there was a void

in the leadership on victims issues, so together with my colleague, Congressman TED POE, we developed the bipartisan voice for victims in Congress, the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, which we together cochair. For Members and staff who are listening today, we welcome your participation in this Crime Victims' Caucus.

On behalf of the caucus, we have introduced this legislation to recognize the fact that, as most Americans know all too well, crime knows no country, no geographic, no demographic, and no political boundary, and it touches all of our communities, unfortunately.

This resolution before you provides support for Victims Rights Week and the Crime Victims Fund, which are two legacies of a former President of ours, President Ronald Reagan. Let me give you some of the history of how the Crime Victims Fund started.

First of all in 1980, President Reagan, with bipartisan support in Congress, called for a national observance to recognize and honor victims of crimes and their families and survivors. The Democratic majority in the Congress back in the 1980s supported that effort. This week also pays tribute to the thousands of community service providers, those providers throughout our country, that give critical support to victims every week of the year. Victims Rights Weeks have been observed annually, therefore, across the Nation since 1980.

But the Congress and President Reagan at the time's commitment to rights of victims led to the passage of what then became known as the Victims of Crime Act, which in 1984 created a Crime Victims Fund. The concept behind the fund is smart and it is simple: We take fines levied on criminals and distribute that money to the victim services providers, those which we talked about. The concept behind that effort is that it is not taxpayers' dollars, it is money that comes from those fines levied on criminals, and they distribute the money to those care providers throughout the Nation. Therefore, let me emphasize, this is not taxpayers' dollars.

Yet, for the third year in a row, this administration is trying to take that money meant for victims and to put it in the abyss of our current efforts to balance the general fund. I might support that if in fact these were taxpayers' dollars, but they are not. These are criminals' dollars that are levied for their criminal act. It is simply wrong.

For the last 2 years, the Crime Victims Caucus led the effort to protect that fund, and we are doing so again this year. As long as I am in Congress, I will continue to fight any effort that would effectively deny services to those victims.

Let me tell you what the Crime Victims Fund has done over the years. It has dedicated more than \$8 billion annually and supported more than 4,400 victim assistance programs throughout

the country that has benefited over 3.8 million. It helps get beds in domestic violence shelters, it helps ensure that rape victims receive proper counseling, and, sadly, sometimes it even has to go to help families pay for funeral expenses.

This fund, therefore, plays a critical role in all of our communities throughout the country. Several groups which I am proud to represent in my own district include but are not limited to the Marjorie Mason Center in Fresno, the Kern, Fresno and Kings County Probation Departments, Clinica Sierra Vista, the Rape Counseling Service of Fresno and the Comprehensive Youth Service.

Our caucus is committed to ensuring that this fund is used for what President Reagan intended: to help victims who truly need and deserve their assistance and to hold offenders accountable, as the Congress intended to do in 1984.

In 2007, the National Crime Victims' Rights Week theme is "Victims Rights: Every Victim, Every Time."

□ 1530

This week from April 22 through April 28, observances are taking place throughout the country in thousands of communities, as indicated by my colleagues.

Unfortunately, last year the FBI Uniform Crime Reports found that crime again is on the rise. Violent crime rose by 3.7 percent. Murders increased by 1.4 percent, and robberies were up by 10 percent. This means that victims suffered the indignation of crime and have significant losses that affect them physically, emotionally, and financially. Our caucus and our Congress must recommit our energies to ensure that "every victim of every crime" has access to support and services.

Therefore, we must talk to the millions of Americans who are victimized each year. We must recall that every violent crime has a victim and every victim has a story. We know about the teenage girl who leaves home for the first time to go to college, to be impacted by a rape; or the young mother who is beaten by her husband on a regular basis but fears leaving him because he has threatened to kill her kids and she has no money and no place to go. Every victim, every time.

Therefore, we must do everything we can. The 22 leading national organizations have come out in official support of the Victims' Rights Week resolution including the National Network to End Domestic Violence, Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network, Justice Solutions, National District Attorneys Association, National Children's Alliance, National Coalition against Domestic Violence, the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and the National Center for Victims of crime. I include the full list for the RECORD.

VICTIMS ORGANIZATIONS OFFICIAL SUPPORT  
FOR H. RES. 119

Organization: Justice Solutions; National Association of VOCA Assistance Administra-

tors; National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children; American Probation and Parole Association; National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center; the National Judicial College; American Society of Victimology; National Center for Victims of Crime; National Alliance To End Sexual Violence; National Organization for Victim Assistance; Stop Family Violence; Mothers Against Drunk Driving; The National Coalition of Victims in Action; National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards; National Coalition Against Domestic Violence; National Network To End Domestic Violence; National District Attorneys Association; Jewish Women International; National Children's Alliance; Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections; Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network; Security on Campus, Inc.

Let me close by recognizing one victim advocate in particular for her valuable contribution in this field throughout the country, and her friendship and support of crime victims, Anne Seymour. She helped Congressman TED POE and I organize the Crime Victims Caucus 2½ years ago. People like Anne and all the organizations I mentioned are where the rubber meets the road. They are the direct providers, meeting the needs of victims every day. They truly are the unsung heroes, and this resolution honors their efforts.

The Congressional Victims Crimes Caucus is committed to working with victims, service providers, and advocates to ensure that from the courtroom to the U.S. Capitol, the voices of crime victims are heard. I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this significant resolution.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), who is a champion of crime victims rights and a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important resolution.

The recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week continues the legacy of an individual who committed himself to elevating the status of crime victims in this country. Among the many contributions made during his Presidency, President Ronald Reagan's leadership and vision in advancing the cause of crime victims is immeasurable. Recognition of National Crime Victims' Week reflects just one of a number of accomplishments which also include national days of observance, creating the Office of Victims of Crime, and establishing the Task Force on Victims of Crime.

Too often, victims of crime are made to be victims a second time, this time as a result of our criminal justice system, the very system designed to protect them. In 2004, 20 years after Congress enacted the Victims of Crime Act which authorized the Victims Assistance Fund, Congress enacted the Justice for All Act. This was another important victory for crime victims, as it extended a number of enforceable rights to crime victims, including the right to reasonably be heard at any

public proceeding involving release, or plea or sentencing, the right to file a motion to reopen a plea, or a sentence in certain circumstances, and most importantly, the right to be treated with dignity and fairness and respect.

However, the enactment of these rights is just one of a number of important changes that needs to occur to ensure that our Nation's criminal justice system is just for both offenders and for the victims of those crimes.

Continued recognition and support of National Crime Victims' Week serves many purposes, including to remind us of what victims have suffered, to thank those individuals and organizations who have selflessly dedicated themselves to assisting victims, and to urge us all to rededicate ourselves to continue President Reagan's vision and leadership in advancing the cause of victims of crime.

And I also want to note that for a number of years a number of us have worked very hard to pass a victims' right constitutional amendment. Now, we ought not to amend the Constitution unless it is absolutely necessary. And I think this is one incident in which it is necessary because the criminals, the defendants, their rights are contained within the Constitution itself. The right to a trial, for example. The right to have witnesses called on their behalf, the right not to have to self-incriminate all are within the Constitution. However, the victims, not a word in the Constitution.

There are laws that have been passed, such as the law which gives a victim the right to be heard at a sentencing hearing or have family members heard at a sentencing hearing, but those are statutes. Oftentimes what happens is they come into conflict, and a judge will have to make a decision because they may be in conflict with each other.

The defendant has his or her rights within the Constitution. They are up here. The victim, their rights down here are statutory. And when it comes to deciding which one is going to prevail, the Constitution will trump that statute every time. Therefore, the crime, the one who committed the crime, the defendant, the criminal, their rights are held higher than the victims. That is just not right.

That is why Henry Hyde, when he was a Member of Congress, had introduced this some years ago, and about 5 years ago I took that up, took up the mantle for Henry to continue to push this way, and we have made progress. We have made progress in the law; but thus far, it is still not within the Constitution and it ought to be.

I want to thank the gentlewoman and Mr. SCOTT also for pushing for this particular resolution this week. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and to support all victims of crime all across the country.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers and urge passage of this important legislation. As



has been said by all of the other speakers, victims' rights is a very important issue and we don't want to forget those who have been victimized by crimes across the Nation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from California for introducing this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, an opportunity to reflect on the need for victims to be treated fairly, commemorate the progress we've made, and acknowledge the work that remains before us. This is a week in which we rededicate ourselves to the challenges that lie ahead in the fight for critical rights for victims of all crimes.

I recently had the opportunity to meet Pat Byron, a woman from my home town of Louisville, Kentucky. Pat's daughter Mary was raped and beaten by her ex-boyfriend as a teenager. He was released from prison without Mary's knowledge, and tracked down the unsuspecting young woman in a parking lot; murdering her on her 21st birthday.

Because of the courage of Pat Byron and the leadership in Louisville, in 1994, the community pioneered VINE, Victim Information and Notification Everyday. VINE could have saved Mary's life, and for the last 13 years, it has saved many like her. This technology is now available in more than 2,000 communities in 41 states and guarantees a victim's right to notification and information.

Today, one week after the most brutal shooting in American history I urge my colleagues to join me and my community in standing up for victims, not only by commemorating National Crime Victims' Rights Week, but in taking steps like automated crime victim notification to ensure that victims' rights are protected.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 119.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### GERALD W. HEANEY FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE AND CUSTOMHOUSE

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 521) to designate the

Federal building and United States courthouse and customhouse located at 515 West First Street in Duluth, Minnesota, as the "Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse".

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 521

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building and United States courthouse and customhouse located at 515 West First Street in Duluth, Minnesota, shall be known and designated as the "Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse and customhouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maine.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 521.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maine?

There was no objection.

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, S. 521 is a bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 515 West First Street in Duluth, Minnesota, as Judge Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse.

Gerald Heaney was appointed judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit on November 3, 1966. He took senior status on December 31, 1988, and retired on August 31, 2006, after over 40 years of distinguished service to his country and the citizens of Minnesota. I rise in strong support of this bill.

Judge Heaney was born on January 29, 1918, in Goodhue, a rural community in the southeastern part of Minnesota. As a child growing up in a farming community, Judge Heaney learned the value of a close family, honesty, and hard work. These qualities have marked not only his personal life but also his life as a public servant.

He was educated at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul and received his law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1941.

Gerald Heaney is a decorated World War II veteran and was a member of the distinguished Army Ranger Battalion and participated in the historic D-Day landing at Normandy. He was awarded the Silver Star for extraordinary bravery in the Battle of La Pointe du Hoc in Normandy. He also received a Bronze Star and five battle stars. At the end of the war, Judge Heaney returned home and entered private practice in Duluth. During this time, he was instrumental in improving the State's education system, and served on the board of regents for the University of Minnesota.

He was instrumental in helping develop for the Duluth school system the same pay scale for both men and women. In 1966, he was appointed by President Johnson to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. In that capacity, he has been a champion in protecting the rights of the disadvantaged. He was devoted to making sure that every person had an equal opportunity for an education, a job, and a home.

He firmly believes the poor and the less educated and the less advantaged deserve the protection of the Constitution. As a hardworking, well-prepared and fair-minded jurist, he left his legal stamp on school desegregation cases, bankruptcy laws, prison treatment, and Social Security law. His public service is marked by industry, brilliance, and scholarly excellence. His compassion and dedication to those most disadvantaged is unparalleled.

Judge Heaney is most deserving of this honor. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, S. 521 is a companion bill to H.R. 187 which was introduced by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR). This bill designates the Federal building and United States courthouse and customhouse at 515 West First Street in Duluth, Minnesota, as the Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse. The bill honors Judge Heaney's dedication to public service.

As we have heard previously, after serving in the Army during World War II and acquiring a law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School, Judge Gerald Heaney entered into the private practice of law from 1946 to 1966. Judge Heaney's career as a judge began in 1966 with an appointment to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit by President Lyndon Johnson.

Judge Heaney had a reputation for championing equal justice for underprivileged and vulnerable citizens. He retired after 40 years of service on August 31, 2006.

I support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 521.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1545

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

April 20, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: It is my desire to resign from the House Select Committee on Intelligence immediately. I look forward to returning to the committee soon.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

RICK RENZI,  
*U.S. Congressman,  
First District of Arizona.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 362, 10,000 TEACHERS, 10 MILLION MINDS SCIENCE AND MATH SCHOLARSHIP ACT

Mr. WELCH of Vermont, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-105) on the resolution (H. Res. 327) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 362) to authorize science scholarships for educating mathematics and science teachers, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 179, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1434, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1402, by the yeas and nays.

Votes on H. Res. 289 and H. Res. 119 will be taken tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

#### NATIONAL FOSTER PARENTS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 179, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 390, nays 0, not voting 42, as follows:

[Roll No. 245]  
YEAS—390

Abercrombie

Ackerman

Aderholt

Akin

Allen

Altmire

Andrews

Arcuri

Baca

Bachmann

Bachus

Baird

Baker

Baldwin

Barrett (SC)

Barrow

Bartlett (MD)

Barton (TX)

Bean

Becerra

Berkley

Berman

Berry

Biggert

Bilbray

Bilirakis

Bishop (GA)

Bishop (NY)

Bishop (UT)

Blackburn

Blumenauer

Blunt

Boehner

Bonner

Bono

Boren

Boswell

Boucher

Boustany

Boyd (FL)

Boyd (KS)

Brady (TX)

Braley (IA)

Brown (SC)

Brown-Waite,

Ginny

Buchanan

Burgess

Burton (IN)

Butterfield

Calvert

Camp (MI)

Campbell (CA)

Cannon

Cantor

Capito

Capps

Capuano

Cardoza

Carnahan

Carney

Carson

Carter

Castle

Castor

Chabot

Chandler

Clarke

Clay

Cleaver

Clyburn

Coble

Cohen

Cole (OK)

Conaway

Conyers

Cooper

Costa

Courtney

Cramer

Crenshaw

Crowley

Cuellar

Cummings

Davis (AL)

Davis (CA)

Davis (IL)

Davis (KY)

Davis, David

Davis, Lincoln

DeFazio

DeGette

DeLauro

Dent

Diaz-Balart, L.

Diaz-Balart, M.

Dicks

Dingell

Doggett

Donnelly

Doolittle

Doyle

Drake

Dreier

Duncan

Edwards

Ehlers

Ellison

Ellsworth

Emanuel

Engel

Engle (PA)

Eshoo

Etheridge

Fallin

Farr

Feeney

Ferguson

Finler

Flake

Forbes

Fortenberry

Fossella

Fox

Frank (MA)

Franks (AZ)

Frelinghuysen

Garrett (NJ)

Gerlach

Giffords

Gilchrest

Gillibrand

Gillmor

Gingrey

Gohmert

Gonzalez

Goode

Goodlatte

Gordon

Granger

Graves

Green, Al

Green, Gene

Grijalva

Hall (NY)

Hall (TX)

Hare

Harman

Hastert

Hastings (WA)

Hayes

Heller

Hensarling

Herger

Hereth Sandlin

Higgins

Hill

Hinchey

Hinojosa

Hirono

Hobson

Hodes

Hoekstra

Holden

Holt

Honda

Hooley

Hoyer

Hulshof

Hunter

Inglis (SC)

Inlee

Israel

Issa

Jackson (IL)

Jackson-Lee

(TX)

Jefferson

Jindal

Johnson (GA)

Johnson, E. B.

Johnson, Sam

Jones (NC)

Jones (OH)

Jordan

Kagen

Kanjorski

Kaptur

Keller

Kildee

Kilpatrick

Kind

King (IA)

King (NY)

Kingston

Klein (FL)

Kline (MN)

Knollenberg

Kucinich

Kuhl (NY)

Lamborn

Langevin

Larsen (WA)

Larson (CT)

Latham

LaTourette

Lee

Levin

Lewis (CA)

Lewis (GA)

Lewis (KY)

Lipinski

LoBiondo

Loeb

Loeb

Lofgren, Zoe

Lowey

Lungren, Daniel

E.

Mack

Mahoney (FL)

Maloney (NY)

Manzullo

Marchant

Markey

Marshall

Matheson

Matsui

McCarthy (CA)

McCarthy (NY)

McCaul (TX)

McCollum (MN)

McCotter

McCrery

McDermott

McGovern

McHenry

McHugh

McIntyre

McKeon

McMorris

Rodgers

McNerney

McNulty

Meehan

Meek (FL)

Melancon

Mica

Michaud

Miller (FL)

Miller (MI)

Miller (NC)

Miller, Gary

Miller, George

Mitchell

Mollohan

Moore (KS)

Moore (WI)

□ 1859

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.” So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED IN MEMORY OF THE LATE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

(Mr. STARK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise to announce the death of our friend and colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD of California. She died, we are informed, peacefully at home with her family on Sunday after a battle with cancer.

JUANITA holds a special place in history. She is the first African American woman to chair a full committee in the United States House. She also worked tirelessly against genocide, human trafficking, and she worked for women's rights. Prior to coming to Congress, she exemplified a leadership role as a teacher, city council member, and California State Assemblywoman.

She was only 68 years young, a vibrant Member of Congress, and a good friend. Our sympathy goes to her husband James, five adult children, and five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence to honor her at this time.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the passing of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD), the whole number of the House is 433.

Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

#### RACHEL CARSON POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1434, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1434.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 334, nays 53, answered “present” 3, not voting 42, as follows:

Abercrombie  
Ackerman  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Altmire  
Andrews  
Arcuri  
Baca  
Bachmann  
Bachus  
Baird  
Baker  
Baldwin  
Barrow  
Bartlett (MD)  
Bean  
Becerra  
Berkley  
Berman  
Berry  
Biggert  
Bilbray  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (NY)  
Blumenauer  
Bonner  
Bono  
Boren  
Boswell  
Boucher  
Boustany  
Boyd (FL)  
Boyd (KS)  
Brady (TX)  
Braley (IA)  
Brown (SC)  
Brown-Waite,  
Ginny  
Buchanan  
Butterfield  
Calvert  
Camp (MI)  
Campbell (CA)  
Capito  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cardoza  
Carnahan  
Carney  
Carson  
Castle  
Castor  
Chabot  
Chandler  
Clarke  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Coble  
Cohen  
Cole (OK)  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Courtney  
Cramer  
Crenshaw  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (AL)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis, Lincoln  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delahunt  
DeLauro  
Dent  
Diaz-Balart, L.  
Diaz-Balart, M.  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Donnelly  
Doyle  
Drake  
Dreier  
Duncan  
Edwards  
Ehlers  
Ellison  
Ellsworth  
Emanuel  
Engel

[Roll No. 246]

#### YEAS—334

English (PA)  
Eshoo  
Etheridge  
Fallin  
Farr  
Ferguson  
Filner  
Flake  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Fossella  
Foxy  
Frank (MA)  
Frelinghuysen  
Giffords  
Gilchrest  
Gillibrand  
Gillmor  
Gonzalez  
Goodlatte  
Gordon  
Granger  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Hall (NY)  
Hare  
Harman  
Hastings (WA)  
Hayes  
Heller  
Hensarling  
Herseeth Sandlin  
Higgins  
Hill  
Hinchey  
Hinojosa  
Hirono  
Hobson  
Hodes  
Hoekstra  
Holden  
Holt  
Honda  
Hooley  
Hoyer  
Hulshof  
Inglis (SC)  
Inslee  
Israel  
Issa  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Jefferson  
Jindal  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Jones (NC)  
Jones (OH)  
Kagen  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Keller  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick  
Kind  
King (NY)  
Klein (FL)  
Kline (MN)  
Knollenberg  
Kucinich  
Kuhl (NY)  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Lewis (GA)  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loeb sack  
Lofgren, Zoe  
Lowey  
Lungren, Daniel  
E.  
Mack  
Mahoney (FL)  
Maloney (NY)  
Manzullo  
Markey  
Marshall

Matheson  
Matsui  
McCarthy (CA)  
McCarthy (NY)  
McCaul (TX)  
McCollum (MN)  
McCrery  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McHugh  
McIntyre  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McNerney  
McNulty  
Meehan  
Meek (FL)  
Meeks (NY)  
Melancon  
Michaud  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (NC)  
Miller, George  
Mitchell  
Mollohan  
Moore (KS)  
Moore (WI)  
Moran (KS)  
Moran (VA)  
Murphy (CT)  
Murphy, Patrick  
Myrick  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Oberstar  
Obey  
Oliver  
Ortiz  
Pallone  
Pascarell  
Pastor  
Payne  
Pearce  
Perlmutter  
Peterson (MN)  
Petri  
Pickering  
Pitts  
Platts  
Pomeroy  
Porter  
Price (GA)  
Putnam  
Rahall  
Ramstad  
Rangel  
Regula  
Rehberg  
Reichert  
Reyes  
Reynolds  
Rodriguez  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothman  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan (OH)  
Ryan (WI)  
Salazar  
Sanchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Saxton  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schwartz  
Scott (GA)  
Scott (VA)  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Sestak  
Shea-Porter  
Sherman  
Shuler  
Shuster  
Sires  
Skelton  
Slaughter

Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Snyder  
Solis  
Souder  
Space  
Spratt  
Stark  
Stearns  
Stupak  
Sullivan  
Sutton  
Tancredo  
Tanner  
Tauscher  
Taylor

Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Tiahrt  
Tierney  
Towns  
Turner  
Udall (CO)  
Udall (NM)  
Upton  
Van Hollen  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walden (OR)  
Walsh (NY)  
Walz (MN)  
Wamp  
Wasserman  
Schultz

Waters  
Watson  
Watt  
Waxman  
Weiner  
Welch (VT)  
Weller  
Wexler  
Wilson (NM)  
Wilson (OH)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wolf  
Woolsey  
Wu  
Wynn  
Yarmuth

#### NAYS—53

Akin  
Barrett (SC)  
Barton (TX)  
Bishop (UT)  
Blackburn  
Blunt  
Boehner  
Burgess  
Burton (IN)  
Cannon  
Cantor  
Carter  
Conaway  
Davis (KY)  
Davis, David  
Doolittle  
Feeney  
Franks (AZ)

Gingrey  
Goode  
Graves  
Hall (TX)  
Hastert  
Herger  
Johnson, Sam  
Jordan  
King (IA)  
Kingston  
Lamborn  
Lewis (KY)  
Marchant  
McCotter  
McKeon  
Mica  
Miller (MI)  
Miller, Gary

Musgrave  
Neugebauer  
Nunes  
Paul  
Pence  
Sali  
Schmidt  
Sessions  
Shadegg  
Simpson  
Tiberi  
Walberg  
Weldon (FL)  
Whitfield  
Wicker  
Young (AK)  
Young (FL)

#### ANSWERED “PRESENT”—3

Garrett (NJ)

Gohmert

Rogers (MI)

#### NOT VOTING—42

Alexander  
Boozman  
Brady (PA)  
Brown, Corrine  
Buyer  
Costello  
Cubin  
Culberson  
Davis, Jo Ann  
Davis, Tom  
Deal (GA)  
Emerson  
Everett  
Fattah

Galleghy  
Gutierrez  
Hastings (FL)  
Hunter  
Johnson (IL)  
Kennedy  
Kirk  
LaHood  
Lampson  
Lantos  
Linder  
Lucas  
Lynch  
Murphy, Tim

Murtha  
Neal (MA)  
Peterson (PA)  
Poe  
Price (NC)  
Pryce (OH)  
Radanovich  
Renzi  
Rush  
Shays  
Shimkus  
Terry  
Thornberry  
Westmoreland

□ 1912

Mr. HAYES changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SERGEANT DENNIS J. FLANAGAN LECANTO POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1402, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1402.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 0, not voting 46, as follows:

[Roll No. 247]

## YEAS—386

Abercrombie Dicks King (NY)  
Ackerman Dingell Kingston  
Aderholt Doggett Klein (FL)  
Akin Donnelly Kline (MN)  
Allen Doolittle Knollenberg  
Altmire Doyle Kucinich  
Andrews Drake Kuhl (NY)  
Arcuri Dreier Lamborn  
Baca Duncan Langevin  
Bachmann Edwards Larsen (WA)  
Bachus Ehlers Larson (CT)  
Baird Ellison Latham  
Baker Ellsworth LaTourette  
Baldwin Emanuel Lee  
Barrett (SC) Engel Levin  
Barrow English (PA) Lewis (CA)  
Bartlett (MD) Eshoo Lewis (GA)  
Barton (TX) Etheridge Lewis (KY)  
Bean Fallin Lipinski  
Becerra Farr LoBiondo  
Berkley Feeney Loebsock  
Berman Ferguson Lofgren, Zoe  
Berry Filner Lowey  
Biggert Flake Lungren, Daniel  
Bilbray Forbes E.  
Bilirakis Fortenberry Mack  
Bishop (GA) Fossella Mahoney (FL)  
Bishop (NY) Foxx Maloney (NY)  
Bishop (UT) Frank (MA) Manzuolo  
Blackburn Franks (AZ) Marchant  
Blumenauer Frelinghuysen Markey  
Blunt Garrett (NJ) Marshall  
Boehner Gerlach Matheson  
Bonner Giffords Matsui  
Bono Gilchrest McCarthy (CA)  
Boren Gillibrand McCarthy (NY)  
Boswell Gillmor McCaul (TX)  
Boucher Gingrey McCollum (MN)  
Boustany Gohmert McCotter  
Boyd (FL) Gonzalez McCreery  
Boyd (KS) Goode McDermott  
Brady (TX) Goodlatte McGovern  
Braley (IA) Gordon McHenry  
Brown (SC) Granger McHugh  
Brown-Waite, Graves McIntyre  
Ginny Green, Al McKeon  
Buchanan Green, Gene McMorris  
Burton (IN) Grijalva Rodgers  
Butterfield Hall (NY) Mc Nerney  
Calvert Hall (TX) McNulty  
Camp (MI) Hare Meehan  
Campbell (CA) Harman Meek (FL)  
Cannon Hastert Meeks (NY)  
Cantor Hastings (WA) Melancon  
Capito Hayes Mica  
Capps Heller Michaud  
Capuano Hensarling Miller (FL)  
Cardoza Herger Miller (MI)  
Carnahan Herseth Sandlin Miller (NC)  
Carney Higgins Miller, Gary  
Carson Hill Miller, George  
Carter Hinchey Mitchell  
Castle Hinojosa Mollohan  
Castor Hirono Moore (KS)  
Chabot Hobson Moore (WI)  
Chandler Hodes Moran (KS)  
Clarke Hoekstra Moran (VA)  
Clay Holden Murphy (CT)  
Cleaver Holt Murphy, Patrick  
Clyburn Honda Musgrave  
Coble Hooley Myrick  
Cohen Hoyer Nadler  
Cole (OK) Hulshof Napolitano  
Conaway Inglis (SC) Neugebauer  
Conyers Inslee Nunes  
Cooper Israel Oberstar  
Costa Issa Obey  
Courtney Jackson (IL) Oliver  
Cramer Jackson-Lee Ortiz  
Crenshaw (TX) Pallone  
Crowley Jefferson Pascarelli  
Cuellar Jindal Pastor  
Cummins Johnson (GA) Paul  
Davis (AL) Johnson, E. B. Payne  
Davis (CA) Johnson, Sam Pearce  
Davis (IL) Jones (NC) Pence  
Davis (KY) Jones (OH) Perlmutter  
Davis, David Jordan Peterson (MN)  
Davis, Lincoln Kagen Petri  
DeFazio Kanjorski Pickering  
DeGette Kaptur Pitts  
Delahunt Keller Platts  
DeLauro Kildee Pomeroy  
Dent Kilpatrick Porter  
Diaz-Balart, L. Kind Price (GA)  
Diaz-Balart, M. King (IA) Putnam

Rahall Sensenbrenner Towns  
Ramstad Serrano Turner  
Rangel Sessions Udall (CO)  
Regula Sestak Udall (NM)  
Rehberg Shadegg Upton  
Reichert Shea-Porter Van Hollen  
Reyes Sherman Velázquez  
Reynolds Shuler Visclosky  
Rodriguez Shuster Walberg  
Rogers (AL) Simpson Walden (OR)  
Rogers (KY) Sires Walsh (NY)  
Rogers (MI) Skelton Walz (MN)  
Rohrabacher Slaughter Wamp  
Ros-Lehtinen Smith (NE) Wasserman  
Roskam Smith (NJ) Schultz  
Ross Smith (TX) Waters  
Rothman Smith (WA) Watson  
Roybal-Allard Snyder Watt  
Royer Solis Waxman  
Ruppersberger Souder Weiner  
Ryan (OH) Space Welch (VT)  
Ryan (WI) Spratt Weller  
Salazar Stark Wexler  
Sali Stearns Whitfield  
Sánchez, Linda Stupak Wicker  
T. Sullivan Wilson (NM)  
Sanchez, Loretta Sutton Wilson (OH)  
Sarbanes Tanner Wolf  
Saxton Tauscher Woolsey  
Schakowsky Taylor Wu  
Schiff Thompson (CA) Wynn  
Schmidt Thompson (MS) Yarmuth  
Schwartz Tiahrt Young (AK)  
Scott (GA) Tiberi Young (FL)  
Scott (VA) Tierney

## NOT VOTING—46

Alexander Gutierrez Poe  
Boozman Hastings (FL) Price (NC)  
Brady (PA) Hunter Pryce (OH)  
Brown, Corrine Johnson (IL) Radanovich  
Burgess Kennedy Renzi  
Buyer Kirk Rush  
Costello LaHood Shays  
Cubin Lampson Shimkus  
Culberson Lantos Tancredo  
Davis, Jo Ann Linder Terry  
Davis, Tom Lucas Thornberry  
Deal (GA) Lynch Weldon (FL)  
Emerson Murphy, Tim Westmoreland  
Everett Murtha Wilson (SC)  
Fattah Neal (MA)  
Gallegly Peterson (PA)

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1920

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, on April 23, 2007, I was in Connecticut to meet with constituents and, therefore, missed 3 recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on recorded vote number 245; "yes" on recorded vote 246; and "yes" on recorded vote 247.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1964

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent in the name of Mr. JON PORTER of Nevada that Mr. PORTER be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1964. Mr. PORTER was listed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1964 due to a clerical error.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 65

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor from H.R. 65.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

## EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 328) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

## H. RES. 328

*Resolved*, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald, a Representative from the State of California.

*Resolved*, That a committee of such Members of the House as the Speaker may designate, together with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

*Resolved*, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of applicable accounts of the House.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to our most distinguished Speaker, Speaker NANCY PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank our dear friend, Congresswoman WATSON, for bringing us together around this very sad and necessary resolution today.

On behalf of all Members of Congress, I rise to pay tribute to Chairwoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, who passed away Saturday night. I offer deepest sympathy to her family, who loved her so dearly, her husband James McDonald, Jr., her five children and her five grandchildren.

As the first African American to chair a committee in Congress, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a trailblazer, always advocating for the full

participation of all Americans in the success and prosperity of our country. She was a strong defender of the right of every eligible voter to have full access to the polls and a tireless proponent of fair elections that ensured that every vote would be counted.

As chair of the House Administration Committee, Chairwoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's deep commitment to diversity was manifested in her actions when hiring and contracting within the House of Representatives. She enjoyed her role as the "Mayor of Capitol Hill," and was known for asking tourists in elevators, "Are you finding everything okay," and listening closely to their response.

After her family, the people of California's 37th District were always first and foremost in Chairwoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's mind and her work here in Congress. She saw it as a priority to make sure they had every opportunity. She worked to strengthen the economy and jobs there, and she saw it as a priority to secure the two ports adjacent to her district.

Chairwoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was an advocate for justice around the world. She spoke out forcefully against the genocide in Darfur, and was a powerful advocate for the rights of women everywhere. As a former cochairwoman of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, she worked for gender equity here at home and throughout the world.

The loss of Chairwoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD is a personal one for many of us here. She was always optimistic and determined to make a difference. The dignity with which she faced her illness was an indication of the determination with which she always served the people of our country.

We have all lost an effective leader and spokesperson, and many of us have lost a dear friend. When we look around this Chamber, it is almost impossible to imagine it without JUANITA here fighting the fight, and doing so looking magnificent. The dignity, the grace, the beauty, the thoughtfulness that she brought to the tasks at hand were a model for others. Young people would come to the Capitol and observe her in action and learn from her.

We also learned from her how to have dignity at the end of life. Many of us knew that she had had bouts with illness, but we really didn't know how serious it was and how close she was to, as she said, her daughter told me, going home. Valerie said to me last night, "She said I want to make all of these arrangements so that I can go home."

I hope it is a comfort to Chairwoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD's family and friends that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time. Many of us will travel to California to say good-bye to JUANITA, if I may speak to her in that familiar way. It has been an honor to call her colleague, I know we all agree

on that, and for many of us it was a privilege also to call her friend.

Good-bye, my friend.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, let me begin by expressing my appreciation to both of my California colleagues, Ms. WATSON and Speaker PELOSI, for their very thoughtful words, and, obviously I would, as all of my colleagues I know want to do, would associate ourselves with the very, very thoughtful remarks offered by Speaker PELOSI.

Madam Speaker, this is a very sad time for me personally, for a number of reasons. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was my friend and my neighbor. And she was my neighbor not only in California representing an adjoining congressional district, but my neighbor right here on Capitol Hill. We were next-door neighbors. So, Madam Speaker, I have to say that I had the privilege of spending a great deal of time with JUANITA.

As Speaker PELOSI said in her statement that she released yesterday, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD truly was a trailblazer. She was an individual who showed amazing commitment throughout her entire life to her beliefs, and I was very happy that she as a Democrat and I as a Republican were able to work together and find areas of agreement.

I have to say one of the biggest challenges that we face in Southern California, I know my California colleague Ms. WATSON understands this very well, is the area of transportation. The gridlock challenge, as is the case with many metropolitan areas around the country, is particularly bad in the Los Angeles area. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD served on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and worked tirelessly to try and focus on those challenges, the difficulties that we faced.

There was one particular project that I was pleased to work with JUANITA on, and that was something known as the Alameda Corridor Project.

□ 1930

A huge percentage of all of the goods going to and from the United States, exports and imports, come through the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. JUANITA represented large parts of Long Beach, and she understood the importance of international trade. So she was one of those in the vanguard in the quest to deal with construction of the Alameda corridor which allowed those goods to move from the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles to the rest of the United States and, similarly, goods exported from America. I am very happy to see the distinguished Chair of the Transportation Committee, Mr. OBERSTAR, nodding in agreement. He knows how important this issue is, and he worked very close-

ly with JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD and all of us who have been involved on that issue. I know she championed it with great enthusiasm.

I also would like to say she was a very proud alumna of the University of Redlands. She went to the University of Redlands at age 40 and got her degree from the University of Redlands. One of the reasons I am proud to point to that is the distinguished former chairman, now ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations, Mr. LEWIS, has specifically asked me to raise this issue.

As I said, we were neighbors. As Speaker PELOSI correctly pointed out, while a number of us knew that JUANITA had not been well, very few knew of the seriousness of her illness. I remember standing with my two California colleagues, Ms. WATSON and Mrs. NAPOLITANO, just last week, and we talked about making a video that we were going to provide for JUANITA because we knew she had not been well.

So her passing has come as a great shock to every single one of us. She is the first woman to ever chair the Committee on House Administration. She was a trailblazer on so many issues. Her passing is a loss to my State of California and to this institution and to the entire country.

Madam Speaker, at this point I am going to ask unanimous consent that my California colleague, Mr. CALVERT, be able to manage the time from this point forward, and with that I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I call on the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK), the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, for 3 minutes.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding me this time.

Today is the first day of the rest of our lives. I stand here to pay tribute to my friend, my sister, chairwoman, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. I was asked earlier by an interviewer: How would she like us to remember her? A leader, a fighter, a mother, a grandmother, excellence bar none, first class, no shortcuts.

To Jim and Valerie and to the rest of the family, to the grandchildren, just know you have her blood and you can do anything. No limits; be the best.

As chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, we are honored to have had her with us and teach us and show us the way. JUANITA has been special in this body, rising from mayor, city councilperson, the first African American woman to chair the House Women's Caucus, and over the last 11 years serving in this body, a special friend to me personally. We many times talked about our families.

So my sister, JUANITA, as you take your rest with the spirit of God, we know you will watch over us and make



sure that we do our due. We know the family knows you are with them forever.

To Jim, it's okay, we're here for you and we always will be.

So let us continue to rejoice. He makes no mistakes. We now have extra protection in heaven.

On behalf of the entire body of the CBC, we are both remorseful and reflective on the life and legacy of Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

We are praying with and for her family and dear friends during this season of grief.

Representative MILLENDER-MCDONALD should be celebrated for her abounding commitment to service and advocacy. During her 7-term tenure as the eloquent voice of the 37th Congressional District, including Long Beach, the industrial suburbs of Carson and Compton and parts of south central Los Angeles.

As a former educator and recipient of a myriad of distinctions, including:

First African American woman to chair a full committee in the U.S. House of Representatives;

First African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council;

First African American woman to render the national Democratic response to President Bush's weekly radio address;

First to be named Honorary Curator of the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach;

First Democratic Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.

Representative MILLENDER-MCDONALD made certain to pave the way for her firsts to not be the last for African Americans and Americans across the globe.

Therefore, the CBC will continue to carry on the work of Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD as we change course, confront crises and continue the legacy.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN).

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on behalf of our departed colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, with whom I only had the privilege of serving for the last 3 years, but who was an office mate, had the office just down the hall from me my first 2 years back here this time around; and then I had the proud honor of serving on House Administration with her.

More than that, she represented a portion of my hometown of Long Beach, and we would often talk about our mutual interests in some of the people and institutions there, particularly my love for Long Beach Memorial Hospital in my hometown.

In every conversation I had with her, in every dealing I had with her, she was very gracious, very generous of spirit, always upbeat. I was surprised to hear of her illness and surprised to hear of her passing because in every conversation I had with her, she never gave an indication that she was in pain or suffering or in any way challenged by this illness.

She seemed to radiate a fulfillment in being in this House and the work she

did. I know she was very proud of the people she represented, her constituents, and I know she was proud of the communities she represented. And I know she was proud of the firsts she represented, both here in the Congress and in the California legislature.

This place is a tough place. We battle oftentimes over ideas and we battle over ideology, and yet the human aspect of this place is forgotten by many who look out or look upon us from the outside, but it is always here. And I always enjoyed every encounter I had with JUANITA. She was a pleasure to work with. She was someone who took great pride in our State of California, and I think she will be someone who will be sorely missed in this House.

It is my pleasure to stand here and say good-bye, JUANITA. I enjoyed working with you. You will be missed.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, with pleasure I yield 3 minutes to Ms. BARBARA LEE from California.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise this evening to offer my condolences to the family of our beloved JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, to her husband, Jim, to her children, to her grandchildren, her sisters, and to her entire family. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time.

I am reminded of the very many moments we shared together and how precious and fun and engaging they were. I met JUANITA over the telephone when I called to congratulate her for, as the underdog, winning the primary for the California Assembly in 1993 where I was then serving.

Even in that first phone conversation, she conveyed such a strong sense of purpose and focus, yet a deep message of sisterhood and optimism about the future. Of course, JUANITA won the general election and came to the California legislature where she demonstrated her keen intellect and her bipartisan legislative abilities as Chair of the Revenue and Taxation Committee and as Chair of the Assembly Insurance Committee.

JUANITA, her husband, Jim, and her sister participated in a delegation which I organized to five countries in Africa. Her commitment to the continent and to diplomacy was recognized by all.

JUANITA, though, recognized the challenges which I personally faced as the organizer and leader of a delegation, most of whose members had never been to Africa. In the most sensitive and loving manner, she presented me with a beautiful Nambian wallet and passport carrier to shore me up and to help me out, and I carry it to this day. You know it was beautiful and well-made. JUANITA had a keen sense of style, if you remember how beautiful and elegant JUANITA was always dressed.

She was a woman of distinction and class which brought her many compliments, but she was also a woman of substance, with a keen intellect, big heart and a passionate sense of justice.

She worked on many issues relating to the empowerment of women, HIV/AIDS, orphans, a host of issues which history will record as improving the lives of millions. Her annual AIDS walk was a source of pride and joy as she shared with us the dos and the don'ts on how to put our own together so we could replicate her success in our own communities.

JUANITA was a giving person who shared her wisdom with her friends and colleagues, and I will always remember her actions during the Bill Clinton impeachment era where she organized a group of women to go to the White House and meet with Mrs. CLINTON in a show of support. It was moments like these when you knew you were in the presence of a risk-taker and a giant of a woman.

JUANITA was a loving wife and mother and grandmother and sister. Oftentimes she brought her beautiful grandchildren to the House floor to give them a sense of her work and a sense of Congress, and to show them off. I am deeply grateful to JUANITA and to her family.

As the Scriptures say, well done, thy good and faithful servant.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Last week, as for many of us, I first heard about JUANITA's illness. That is surprising because there is a group of us on both sides of the aisle that fly back and forth to California every week. I know there is a lot of talk about partisanship nowadays, but we have a pretty close group. Many times we sit next to each other on the airplane, and we talk about parents and children and golf or whatever. And JUANITA was always a delight to be with, always had a positive attitude, always someone you looked forward to seeing.

I was deeply saddened to hear of JUANITA's sudden passing. I was sitting at home writing a note to her this weekend; and, unfortunately, that note can't be delivered. But I hope she is listening right now as we state our condolences to her family and to her friends.

It has certainly been an honor for me to have worked with her for the last 11 years that she served in Congress. She was a faithful representative of her district.

I worked with her specifically on the C-17 factory in Long Beach, California, where they make the great C-17 aircraft, and she was a champion for that. She worked for the employees that worked at that plant to make sure that the aircraft which is doing a wonderful job for our country continues to be manufactured in Long Beach, California. As a matter of fact, the last conversation I had with her was about what we can do to keep that going.

There are no words I can use to convey the sense of loss when a colleague passes. She was a champion, and a champion for California. Our delegation will miss her very much. We will miss her smile.

I join all of my colleagues in supporting this bereavement resolution and extend my sympathies to her families and friends. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a patriot who faithfully served her country. Her contributions and commitment will not be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to give 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN).

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD touched our lives in different ways. I chair the California Democratic delegation, and I can tell you that our delegation is literally heartbroken over the loss of JUANITA.

We meet every Wednesday as a delegation to sort through the issues that face us not just as a Congress but as a State. And although we know JUANITA for her leadership in the Nation, those of us in California are very proud of the special things she did for our State.

□ 1945

There will be an empty spot at our meeting every Wednesday.

She was a trail blazer, as has been mentioned, a first so often: the first California African American woman to chair two committees in the California Assembly; the chairperson of the House Administration Committee. But when I think of JUANITA, I think of someone who had tremendous dignity, tremendous style, tremendous poise. She knew that she was a first, and it was important to her that she accomplish these firsts with an eye to being a role model for young people around the country and, indeed, around the world.

As Chair of the Committee on House Administration, where I also serve, she worked so diligently to make sure that every vote would be counted, that all Americans would be treated fairly and without discrimination, and she was so happy to provide that leadership as chairwoman of the committee. It is so unfair that we have lost her from that position so prematurely.

Today, we mourn the passing of a great American, but we also celebrate the legacy of public service that she leaves behind. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD left this Chamber as she entered it, with poise and spirit, fighting for those who could not fight for themselves.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her husband, her five children, her grandchildren, and we mourn her passing, not just today but every day.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE).

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I was, like many of my colleagues, shocked and deeply saddened to hear the news about JUANITA. GRACE NAPOLITANO had just brought by a nice card for Members to sign on Friday, I think it was, and here I realize that she has passed away. I just had no idea.

It was my privilege to serve with her in the House Administration Committee when she was the ranking member, and JUANITA was a passionate advocate for her ideas and her beliefs. Sometimes she and I would argue with each other, but it was never with any personal disagreement. I liked her, I thought highly of her, and would just like to join with my colleagues in acknowledging her fine service here in the House of Representatives, her dedication to California, her desire to make a difference.

I always admired her love and devotion to family, and I join with my colleagues in saying that I will miss her, and I am very sorry that this has happened.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague DIANE WATSON for her leadership in gathering us together, and I rise with my colleagues to extend my condolences, heartfelt, from this body to the family, to the friends, to the constituents of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

This is a somber hour because we are, as my colleague, the dean of our California delegation, mentioned, we are heartsick over this loss, and maybe it is because JUANITA was such a striking presence, so dynamic, so poised and articulate. When she entered a room, you knew she was there; and now, today, as we gather so soon after we heard of her death, just yesterday, walking through the doors of the Capitol, I thought it is not the same place now because she is not going to be there, wearing something striking, something beautiful, and with her elegance and grace.

We will miss her. We will always miss her. She served in this place, as she served her community and her family and her city council and the State legislature, with such distinction, with passion and with dedication for the benefit of her community and with enormous patriotism.

This talented public servant was a champion for several years, including fighting HIV/AIDS, improving women's health, encouraging women in business, protecting voting rights, stopping the genocide in Darfur. As I mention these issues, I think to myself her charge to us this evening would be to stop the sweet talk about her and get busy and solve these problems. That is the best thing we can do in her memory, in her name.

She knew where the challenges lay in our country, in the way we go to the polls and the fairness of our elections, the availability of the opportunity to vote for every single American. She was not content. It is not solved yet and we have to do this in her honor.

The genocide in Darfur, until that is a thing of the past, we cannot rest. We have got to do this now for JUANITA.

HIV and AIDS and all of the other things she cared about, now we have an

increased motivation, and that is how we can turn our sorrow into something positive, the way she did with her life.

We have heard from our colleagues this evening, and we will hear many things, but in particular, I want to speak today as I follow in her footsteps as cochair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues. During the 107th Congress, she was cochair of the Caucus for Women's Issues, serving ably with Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT.

Under their leadership, the women's caucus initiated the first annual Memorial Day tribute to women in the military at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. Now this event, thanks to JUANITA, has become an annual tradition and highlights the caucus' strong commitment to supporting our brave women in uniform. I know JUANITA will be proud of us as we continue in this tradition.

As cochair of that caucus, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD also convened the first meeting between women Members of Congress and the Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg in order to discuss issues of national importance to women, especially in the judicial area.

On a personal moment, I will never forget the first time I met with my colleague, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD. It was during a very difficult moment in my life after the passing of my husband Walter. The first thing I knew she was there in my district with every single one of her staff members to help me to succeed him in office. It was a very rainy time, and there they all were, walking precincts in my district, and that was how I met JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

She made a special effort to reach out to me and to my family in ways that were very meaningful to me. She shared with me that her father was a preacher like mine was, so we had that kind of bond as well. And I know it has been mentioned how ferociously she worked on issues like the C-17 and the Alameda Corridor, but if you ever flew with her in her service on the Transportation Committee, you knew very well that she wanted that airline to work for, not her, but for all of us Members and all of the passengers, and she made sure whatever flight we were on was going to be on time to the best of her ability.

These are stories that I am not going to ever forget and I want to be grateful for her kindness to me, and pledge during this very challenging time in my life, she was there for me, and now we reach out to her family members. All of us are going to miss our colleague and our thoughts and prayers are with her during this difficult time.

It was just pictured, such a wonderful picture of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD in her local paper, the Los Angeles Sentinel, and ironically, it is dated Thursday, April 22, and that was when she took leave. And who would have known on the paper in her community

that just a few days later she would be gone. But I think it would be befitting her to have this entered in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in memory of JUANITA.

[From the Los Angeles Sentinel, April 19, 2007]

CONGRESSWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD WILL TAKE FOUR TO SIX WEEKS OFF TO SEEK TREATMENT FOR CANCER

(By Yussuf J. Simmonds)

Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald is taking a leave of absence until May 25 in order to seek proper care and spend quality time with her family after being diagnosed with cancer.

It had been rumored for some time that her health was troubling especially since she had been placed on the "prayer list" at her local church, Second Baptist Church in Los Angeles. However, she has always been a fighter for the community and now the community stands ready to return her hard work and efforts on its behalf with prayer and best wishes.

McDonald is currently serving her seventh term in Congress representing the 37th Congressional District, which includes parts of Carson, Compton, Long Beach, Los Angeles and Signal Hill. Presently, she is the chairwoman of the House Administration Committee, the first Black woman to hold that position. As chairwoman, she has investigated the voting irregularities and disenfranchisement in Ohio, which was the first election reform field hearing in Congressional history.

Glamour Magazine recently dubbed her as "one of the eleven women who will change the world" and a recent news report cited her as one of the five most effective members of Congress because of her ability to reach across party lines to effectively move bipartisan legislation.

Congresswoman Barbara Lee, the vice chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and the representative of the 9th Congressional District of California, extended warm greetings to her colleague and offered these words of comfort.

"Our prayers are with Congresswoman McDonald and her family. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope that her leadership and courage will soon be back with us in the nation's capital," Lee said.

Councilman Isadore Hall of Compton's Fourth District was touched when he received word of her health concerns.

"Right now we are holding her up in deep prayer and hoping for a speedy recovery," said Hall. "Certainly her presence will be missed, but we know she has competent staff who will be able to move swiftly with the agenda she has set for the community."

This is not the first time that McDonald has faced health issues. In 2005, she underwent major surgery for an unknown illness. Last year, her son, R. Keith McDonald, requested a furlough from his 41-month prison sentence for political corruption charges in order to see to her condition at the time.

The judge granted him a six-month release but again, there was no official comment from McDonald on her condition then and there is no comment now if either incident is related to her current situation.

Dr. William Epps, pastor of Second Baptist Church where McDonald is a parishioner, relayed his thoughtfulness by saying that he stays "in touch with her weekly" and that "I'm keeping her in prayer for strength as she faces her health."

She reportedly will maintain a limited schedule particularly in her district and this apparently will be to expedite her recovery process. She has requested respect for her

privacy at present and all of her constituents have offered their prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I first met JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which is a wonderful committee, and I am sure the current Chair would agree with that. A great diversity of tasks there, and I came to know her at that committee.

I was amazed at Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD in a number of ways. You just heard the previous speaker talk about her grace and elegance. That was apparent from the moment you saw her and talked to her.

She and I became rather good friends because it happened that her father was a pastor, and my father was also a pastor. There is a special bond between preachers' kids or PKs as they are called, and we used to jokingly discuss the need to develop a PK caucus in the Congress so that we could address major issues of the times, particularly those with a moral or human content to them.

Our friendship continued over the years, and I have to confess, I was continually amazed at new things I discovered in JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

First of all, just imagine being born African American in 1938 in Alabama and becoming the first African American woman to chair a committee in the Congress. That is a long and difficult road, and she traversed that road, once again, with elegance and grace.

After having five children, she went back to school, received a bachelor's degree and then became a teacher. She later went back to school again and obtained a master's degree, showing amazing persistence and drive to do that. She then entered the political arena, became the mayor of the city in her district, and then later the State Assembly, and then the Congress.

So she had considerable drive and interests in serving others, and that stood out from the moment you first met her.

But I found it interesting, too, on a personal relationship, she was a good friend of mine but a very private person, and I was dismayed recently to find out that she had cancer because she had never discussed this with me and never alluded to it in our discussions. I knew something was wrong, but I did not know what. I wish I had known so I could have offered her more comfort and help.

We have had our amusing moments as well. One time she insisted in talking far past her limit in our committee when I was chairman, and I gavelled her out of order, which she refused to admit and kept talking. So I gavelled louder and she kept talking, and I gavelled louder yet, until she could no

longer speak. She was not pleased with that. But when she became the chairwoman, I called her to congratulate her and I said, now, I fully expect you to gavel me out of order every opportunity you get, and that was the type of relationship we had.

In spite of our differences of party, in spite of occasional differences in perspective and differences on how we should accomplish things in this Congress, we remained good friends throughout. And I think because of that, together, we were able to accomplish a great deal in that committee this past year, and we were continuing to do that this year under her leadership.

We have lost a good friend. We have lost a good compatriot. We have lost a good Member of Congress. It is not easy to deal with that type of loss, and our comfort is that she is in a better place, that she has served our country well. She has served her people well. I am sure as a teacher she served her students well. I think she has left the Congress a better place because of her having been here and with the example that she set for us.

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Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to Mr. OBERSTAR of Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, it was shortly after the election in which JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was elected to the Congress, she called on my office. I was the ranking member on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

She came to see me about service on our committee. I had learned a little about her background, and I was surprised. I thought she would be more interested in Judiciary or International Relations, but when I asked why she wanted to serve on this nuts and bolts committee, she said, well, I have the Alameda Corridor in my district. And if I heard Alameda Corridor from her once, I heard it 50 times. It was incessant, it was a refrain, it was a passionate advocacy. I, of course, did support her candidacy for the committee.

Then, when the assignments were given out, she came calling again, said, I want to know more about what this committee does. What are all these responsibilities? What does this subcommittee's work mean on public buildings and grounds and economic development?

When I laid out the picture that this committee has jurisdiction over 367 million square feet of Federal civilian office space, she was excited. Well, there are things we can do here.

It was just such an enlightenment and so exciting to see a new Member enthused about the work of the committee and wanting to understand it and grasp and understand it.

The other thing that I have observed over the years, I have watched, as many of our colleagues have, as have the gentleman from Michigan and the

gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) who spoke so warmly and touching earlier, I see Members come in and they scratch and claw to get a committee assignment. Then they get on a committee, and they scratch and claw to get their subcommittee assignments. Then when you are there presiding or working, for so many years as the ranking member, you turn around, where are they? You don't see them again. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD showed up for work, every time.

What was also touching was when another committee assignment conflicted, she would come in, sit down, be checked in, look at the committee agenda and the information, then she would come over and say would you please hold me excused, I have to go to another committee because something else is happening. You don't see that happening very often, the conscientiousness that she displayed about her service in the Congress. She took it seriously, learned it well.

When we were crafting the Tea-21 legislation, she wanted to be a part of shaping the minority business enterprise provisions. She was on the floor to advocate for them. Her whole career was one of dedication to service, but she was a person, a mother, a wife, a human being, warm and caring. When she walked into a room and offered that smile, clouds parted, lights went on and JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was there for us.

She will always be in my heart, in our hearts.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my colleague from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I thank the distinguished gentleman from California, my colleague, for extending me time from his part and recognizing the fact that we have so many on this side of the aisle to offer their remarks, especially in honoring Ms. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Madam Speaker, like all my colleagues in attendance this evening in this Chamber, we were all surprised and shocked to learn of the untimely death of our distinguished gentle lady from the great State of California, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Some of you may be surprised to know that when I was serving as Lieutenant Governor some 24 years ago, I knew JUANITA. She was a dear friend, but she was serving at that time as a member of the city council in the city of Carson, California. We collaborated often in addressing the economic and social needs of the members of my Samoan community living in the cities of Carson, Compton and even Long Beach. Next thing I learned, JUANITA was elected as a member of the California State Assembly, and then finally she was elected as a Member of Congress.

JUANITA was passionate about the needs of the poor and the destitute. I know our Samoan community throughout the Los Angeles area all mourn the

loss of this great and gentle lady. She truly was a dear friend to me, and members of the Samoan community are going to feel the loss of her presence. She lived life to the fullest. I know we are here to celebrate her life, although we also mourn her absence from the Halls of this great institution.

On behalf of our Samoan community throughout the Los Angeles area, we convey our deepest sympathies and condolences to JUANITA, her husband, and all the members of her family. I recall the Good Book, and it is my sincere hope that they may all be comforted with our Savior's promise, blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

I may also say in our Samoan culture, when someone passes away, we don't say that the person has died. We just simply say, be well in your voyage. And I would like to say this in my language, JUANITA, ia manuia lau faigamalaga. God bless.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 additional minute to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 3 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentlelady from California (Ms. WATSON) for her dedicated commitment and Mr. CALVERT, two Californians who have come together on this sad but really commemorative time.

Madam Speaker, I want to lift my voice a little bit, because there are some things that we say in the church about home-going services or memorials, is that they are, in fact, a celebration of life. I clearly believe that as I have listened to my colleagues, and as I will continue to listen to my colleagues, we really are celebrating JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD's life. We are celebrating our friendship and how we care for her, how she cared for us.

My first remarks are that our mayor has fallen, the mayor of our city, the City of Congress, the comings and goings of Members and staff, traffic and various personnel, law enforcement. This was her love, as she first started as a ranking member of the House Administration Committee and then had the honor of being appointed by the new Speaker of the House, a woman, to be the chairwoman of the House Administration Committee.

But I do want to say, before I comment further, that JUANITA had a bigger smile when she was around her husband, Jim, her five children and her grandchildren. She sparkled when she brought her grandchildren to the floor of the House and made sure that everybody knew those beautiful and lovely children who, in fact, seemed to have a very strong and proud bond with their grandmother. They were proud of this regal woman who came to the floor of

the House as a Member of the United States Congress.

JUANITA was a doer, and she used to often speak of her beginnings with a Baptist father, preacher, a close-knit family, and her deep roots in Birmingham, Alabama, knowing what a segregated South was all about, a segregated America. Though she fought against it, she didn't let it bring her down, discourage her. Off she went to California, and she became a true daughter of California, with all of the attributes that great State allows you to have.

She did things to make life better. She had a great sense of hope and spirit about her women's march against AIDS, and each year the numbers kept growing up and up and up. She would tell me, coming back, thousands of women marched against HIV/AIDS to find a cure, to stop the devastation in women. We were so proud when, for the first time, she was able to bring us together around women in the military.

The last time I was there, the curator of that museum said, you know, JUANITA started this. We now have become so important because of JUANITA.

Then, of course, she worked with the library and those workers over there. JUANITA was someone who believed in getting things done, not for herself, but for others.

As I close, let me thank MARCY KAPTUR for giving this very special commemoration that has NANCY PELOSI's name on it, the votes that NANCY won by, MARCY's name as an elector or counter, tally person, and there is JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, who had, as her final work, the true integrity and transparency of elections all over America. Truly, we want to thank her, we love her. We love you, JUANITA. This is a celebration of your life.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 12 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA).

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, yesterday the House of Representatives, the State of California, and the Nation, lost a leader and a good friend of ours, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. We certainly will miss her. My wife, Barbara, and I extend a heartfelt condolence to her family, friends, staff, children, her five grandchildren and to Jim.

Today we pay tribute to a real trailblazer, a pioneer, the first African American woman to chair a committee, a positive role model, a person who created hope for many individuals, a person who was a well liked and well respected individual.

In a role as a public servant, she touched the lives of many individuals.

Here in the House, I have heard many individuals talk about how she was a nice person and how she was well liked.

As Chair of House Administration she worked closely with the Congressional TriCaucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus in trying to obtain the fairness and equality for all of us. She was pleasant to work with. I have had the opportunity to work with JUANITA and served with her in the California State Assembly prior to coming to Washington, DC.

She has always been a strong advocate for the poor, the disadvantaged and those that were underrepresented. I know that she spent much time going into my district and speaking to a lot of the poor and disadvantaged in San Bernardino, in the Inland Empire, because she cared about the poor, not only in that area, but she cared about equal representation. She wanted to ensure that we had the numbers or bodies of people who represent us here in Congress. She worked for me in my campaign when I first ran out there.

She worked with me also in a variety of areas, but one of those that has been mentioned tonight has been the Alameda Corridor. She really took it to heart because she knew the Alameda Corridor and what it meant was a lifeline to California, to Southern California, in the area of transportation, not only to the L.A. International Airport, but Ontario International Airport that is also affiliated with that area.

JUANITA really believed, because she knew the infrastructure and the growth and the population in the area, and she put a high priority on transportation. She was a friend and a loyal supporter, and I am grateful.

As a friend, she will be deeply missed, but she will not be forgotten. She fought for justice, she fought for equality so that all individuals will not experience the prejudice and racism that most of us have experienced throughout our life, that she wanted life to be better for others. She is a strong voice for many. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be remembered for her dedication to public service, tireless work on behalf of her constituents, and standing for the rights of women and minorities, and, overall, her desire to make our country a better place.

We love you, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

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Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I too rise this evening to honor the life and work of my colleague and friend, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, who has passed from labor to reward.

JUANITA was a warm and caring individual. She worked very hard in this body to improve quality of life for all Americans. As a faithful member of the Congressional Black Caucus she also

spoke of the urgency of eradicating poverty and eliminating disparities in education and health care and wealth. She spoke for those who could not speak for themselves. My constituents, the 660,000 people of the First District of North Carolina, are grateful for the service of Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

I join my colleagues this evening in saying to the family of this great woman, you had a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother. Her love of humanity and work on behalf of disadvantaged people everywhere ensures that she is in heaven and free of the suffering she had to endure. May God bless the soul of this great American.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, LINDA SANCHEZ.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I join my colleagues here on the floor this evening to pay tribute to a colleague who we lost far too soon.

I was saddened to hear the news yesterday of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD's passing. JUANITA was really a woman of many firsts, who broke down countless barriers for women and for African Americans.

While the history books no doubt will list the numerous accomplishments of her long career, I will remember her best as a champion for economic opportunity and empowerment for the people of Long Beach and Los Angeles. I was pleased to have had the opportunity to work with her on many issues important to the communities shared by our adjacent districts. When workers, for example, in our communities who assembled the C-17 aircraft, faced the prospect of their assembly plant shutting down and losing their jobs, JUANITA led the fight to make sure that those jobs were not lost. And she succeeded, and hundreds of people's lives are better off today thanks to her hard work.

When I first joined Congress, JUANITA took the time and made a special effort to introduce me to many of the local leaders in the African-American communities that straddle our districts. This was very thoughtful of her and I will always be in her debt for it.

We here in Congress will certainly miss her insight, her experience, and her energy. And I will most certainly miss her beautiful smile and her unforgettable style because she truly is an unforgettable woman.

I am sure that her constituents will miss her tireless advocacy on their behalf. They and we have lost a fine public servant, and we have lost a tremendously fine colleague. But most of all, my thoughts tonight are with her husband, their children and grandchildren, and their extended family. I wish them all the strength during this difficult time, and I want them to know that JUANITA is truly an incredible woman who shall not be forgotten.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Santa Ana, California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ).

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from California.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was my friend. I used to love coming into the Chamber and sitting down next to her and asking, "What's up, what's going on," because JUANITA knew. She knew what was going on in the Congress. She was the mayor of Congress, if you will, being the chairwoman of the House Administration Committee. And JUANITA knew what was going on back in California.

When I first decided to run for Congress and nobody knew, JUANITA called me up and said, "I'm stuck on the freeway, but I'm coming down to walk precincts with you. So let's hope the sun stays up and we get to go and walk together." And we did, and that is how I met JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

When I first came to the Congress, and coming as a young woman which, quite frankly, 12 years ago there weren't a lot of us, it was always very difficult and hard to be accepted. It is always hard to find your way in the Congress. But JUANITA was right there. She was like a touchstone. She was somebody that I could talk to and tell her my frustrations or the happy points here. She really is what I would call a friend, and to many of us here she was a friend. She is a friend back in her district.

I wish the people of the United States really understood the work that JUANITA did. The Alameda Corridor was her dream. It was her project. This was the project to move goods that come to this country from the port across and through L.A. and out into the rest of the United States. When you think of the fact that 50 percent of everything that comes into the United States comes through the ports that were right there at JUANITA's side, you would understand how important it was to each and every American. You see, if that cargo didn't leave L.A., if you were an auto worker in Tennessee, building a car, and you were waiting for inventory just in time, it wouldn't get there in time if it hadn't been for JUANITA. And last year on the very last day of the 109th Congress, we passed the Safe Port Act. That really was JUANITA's legislation.

She will be remembered for a long time in this country and in this Congress. JUANITA, and to her family, I love her.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for the time.

I rise with great sadness to remember my friend, my sorority sister in the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and my colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. And I want to extend my deep



condolences to her husband James, her children, friends, and loved ones.

I was privileged to serve with her on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and her diligent service is evident in many of California's roads, bridges, and highways. I worked with her when she was cochair of the Congressional Women's Caucus. She did it with such charm, grace, poise, and dignity. This body is diminished and dismayed by her sudden absence, but we were inspired and enriched by her presence.

Her spirit will live on. Her work will be felt by those who don't even know she helped. We celebrate her life. It was a wonderful, wonderful life. And we love her and her family.

Madam Speaker, I rise with great sadness to remember my friend, my sorority sister and my colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. I want to extend my deep condolences to her husband, James, her children, friends and loved ones.

As chairwoman of the Committee on House Administration, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be recorded in history as the first African-American woman to chair a full committee of the House.

Those of us privileged to know and work with her will remember her tireless advocacy for justice and her example of meaningful public service.

Throughout her career, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a friend to women's causes and to young people. Her work to end human trafficking and slow the transmission of AIDS has improved countless lives.

The results of her work—improved lives for women and girls worldwide, expanded voting rights for the disenfranchised, greater assistance for the sick and the poor—are a testament to her character.

From the beginning, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a trailblazer:

She was the first African-American woman to serve on the Carson, California City Council.

In her first term in the California State Assembly, she became the first woman to chair two powerful committees.

She was the first African-American woman to give the national Democratic response to President Bush's weekly radio address as well.

But for all her firsts, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was also a champion for the least and the last. She fought injustice wherever she found it: Whether in the voting booth, the classroom, the research lab, or the workplace.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD rigorously investigated widespread voting irregularities and disenfranchisement.

She was a vocal opponent of genocide around the world and a tireless fighter for human rights.

Her Mother-to-Child HIV/AIDS Transmission Act became the President's \$15 billion African AIDS initiative.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD also worked to increase diabetes research in minority and female populations; she pushed the Department of Education to improve the dismal dropout rates among minority high school students and secured millions to reduce the backlog of Equal Employment Opportunity complaints.

The first time voters in Ohio can feel more confident their votes will count because of Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

The elderly diabetics in her home State of Alabama have a better chance of avoiding amputation because of her.

She had a hand in granting diplomas to thousands of Native American students growing up on reservations; and countless girls in Cambodia and Sudan have her to thank for a childhood free from kidnapping and assault. They may never know where to direct their gratitude, but the alleviation of their suffering stands as her lasting legacy.

Her influence is also inscribed on the physical landscape of California's 37th district. I was privileged to serve with her on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and her diligent service is evident in many of California's roads, bridges and highways.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's record of exemplary public service includes life memberships in the NAACP and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

She served on the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Board of Directors, and founded the League of African-American Women.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD also founded the Young Advocates to train young people for political leadership.

This body is diminished and dismayed by her sudden absence, but we were inspired and enriched by her presence.

Her commitment to equal opportunity, civil and human rights will be greatly missed.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, this is indeed a solemn occasion, but it is also an occasion to celebrate.

On each of our obituaries at that time, there are three things that are mentioned: the year you were born, the year you died, and then there is the dash. It is what you do with the dash, what you do with your life. And the life that we are here to celebrate, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD's life, was one of greatness and sacrifice and commitment, serving on the city council, serving in the State legislature of California, and then in the Congress of the United States. Traveling around the world wherever the need was, whether it was in Africa, Middle East, in the Caribbean, she cared.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD fought the good fight, she kept the faith, and there is indeed put up for her an outstanding crown of righteousness, and we all thank God for having Ms. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD pass our way.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, my wife Vivian, all of our colleagues here in the Congress, and all of the hundreds of workers here on Capitol Hill were deeply saddened to learn of the death of our friend and colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Words are never adequate at a time of loss. Only one who has worn the gar-

ment of bereavement can truly understand the pain that comes when a family must confront the inevitable that one has been taken from its midst. Yet, upon prayerful reflection we must all allow our tears to melt into joy, because truly we have been blessed to have known, to love, and to have been a part of the life of this very, very exceptional woman.

JUANITA was a lady of achievement, of service, of public distinction, of beauty, of grace, of dignity. She was elegant and she was eloquent. She was the epitome of refinement, but she was committed. She was intellectual, she was a lady of principle, and she was an advocate for justice.

JUANITA was a person of great courage. She took on the toughest fight, but she fought it with dignity. Even in her illness, she took on that tough fight. I was happy to call her my friend, but I was happier for her to call me friend and confidante.

The poet wrote, "Full many a gem of purest ray serene, the dark unfathomed caves of oceans bear; full many a flower is born to blush unseen, and waste its sweetness on the desert air." We are blessed and so happy that JUANITA's sweetness was not wasted, but that we and the world are better because she was here.

We wish Godspeed and the consolation of the Holy Spirit for her husband, her children, and her grandchildren as we share in your loss and bid our good friend and colleague farewell.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT).

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time. I join with my colleagues in expressing sympathy and paying tribute to our friend and colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

When you serve in a body of 435 people, you get to know some of the Members by face, some by name, and then you get to know some close up and personal. When you serve as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, as I did for the last 2 years, you get to know your members on a close personal basis, and you get to know who will stand with you and fight, who will support you, who will cover your back for you. And that is how I got to know JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, because I knew she would stand and fight for what she believed in and she would be a friend.

So I remember her first and foremost as a friend and colleague, and pay tribute to her family and express my sincere condolences.

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Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, DIANE WATSON, for organizing this event.

You know, when I think of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, I think of this

piece of poetry called "A Phenomenal Woman." In one of the lines in that piece of poetry, it says, "Does my sexiness upset you? Do you find it awful hard that I dance like I have oil wells growing in my back yard?" And JUANITA was like that. She danced and she walked and she showed off, and that is what I loved most about her.

When I came to Congress, I learned that we had Alabama roots. I learned that she was an AKA and I was a Delta. And on the floor of the House I would wear pink, and she would say, oh, you look good in that pink. And I would say, oh it is only faded red that I have on, because Deltas wore red.

We talked about issues affecting women. It was as a result of her work and that of Bob Ney that I had an opportunity to bring the Secretary of State of Ohio before a hearing and get him to answer questions. I thank JUANITA for that, to my best.

But I think the thing that JUANITA and I talked about most, and my words are to you, Keith, that she loved you. We talked about our sons. And African American sons are so important in the lives of mothers. And we used to talk about you. And I used to talk about Mervyn. And she loved her daughters, but we talked about our boys.

And I just want to say to the family, Jim and all, that we here in the Congress will miss JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. But the thing that we will always remember is she was right there on that aisle, right there, just sitting there talking, smiling, walking, being involved. And we thank God for JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

And, God, you know, AKAs came first, but the Deltas were second. So I will always think of her as my sister. We are from the same root.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, as my final speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), who has also had a difficult week. He lost his brother this week, and our condolences are with him, also.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, I lost two people who were very dear to me this last week, and one was my brother, who passed away Thursday morning, and JUANITA, who just passed away on Sunday.

It is really an amazing thing as I have thought about this, just about how similar these two people were, because my brother was very, very active in politics, but he was really non-ideological. He was someone who had a very good heart and was a very generous person, was always looking forward trying to help people get something done. Does that remind of you anybody else?

That was JUANITA. I mean, there wasn't an ornery bone in her body. And in politics, you know, we get kicked around and beat up a lot and people lie to us, and people say bad things about us, and I never saw JUANITA ever get mean or vengeful at all towards anybody.

And we used to travel back and forth in the airplane. I see some of my friends here who traveled on that same flight. And it was always such a joy to be with her and to spend 4 and 5 hours at a time going across the country. And you can't say that about everybody. Who else do you want to spend 4 or 5 hours with?

She was a wonderful person. She had a wonderful heart.

And my brother wasn't as successful as JUANITA. When he passed away, he really didn't have a lot of professional success.

JUANITA, as we have heard today, had enormous professional and personal success in her life, being a woman who reached up to the height here of power and authority and influence here in Washington, DC and our Nation's Capital.

But you know what? Whether it was that or whether it was my poor brother who passed away, both of them died of liver cancer, I might add. Both of them died of liver cancer, just so close to each other.

But, you know, when they lay us down in our casket, no matter what we have accomplished in the material world, it is what we have done to try to help others, how good a heart we have, how generous we have been to other people, not just financially, but with our time and with our love and with our caring. Those are the things that we carry with us.

I believe my brother, he was a very accomplished and successful person in that way. And we certainly know that today, JUANITA was a wonderful success in her life. She cared about people. She never was captured by the meanness and orneriness that comes with politics sometimes.

She always wanted to get things done. She worked with me. Our districts came together in Long Beach and we worked together on so many programs for the people of Long Beach, especially in the areas of transportation and water and health care, and she was always there trying to talk to me, saying what can we get done.

I am a conservative Republican and she was a Democrat, but she always wanted to work together to try to do things to help other people. So I am very proud tonight to stand up and say that I will miss JUANITA. I am going to miss my brother, obviously. But this world has lost two wonderful souls, two wonderful human beings. And I am pleased to add my voice tonight to say, goodbye, JUANITA, and we are going to miss you. You had lots of love in your heart, and we love you. Bye-bye.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, HILDA SOLIS.

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Los Angeles, Congresswoman WATSON, for holding this special event here for us to talk about one of our colleagues.

You know, I haven't been here very long in the Congress; but when I came

in 2001, I knew that I had a friend here. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD at that time served as caucus Chair for the Women's Caucus and led the fight in so many ways for justice for women. And particularly, as a woman of color, she knew how deeply important it was to set herself up as a role model for all of us.

I remember her coming back and talking to me about events she did in her district. Every year annually she would raise funds and give grants out to domestic violence shelters and programs, and how she would have a big event with her community, and she kept inviting me. HILDA, you have got to see what we are doing out in our area; and it is something that you should take a look at.

She was there. She fought so hard for us during the Women's Caucus as she served her tenure, helping to promote women in the military. And she was very adamantly strongly, strongly supportive of women in the military.

And I know that her family, right now, needs our prayers and thoughts, and we send those from our community and from my family, from my husband and myself, and want to thank her for all that she did to fight for us, for our transportation funding in Southern California, for the ACE project, which affects so many of the L.A. delegation members, and for her strong work and advocacy for people of color affected by HIV and AIDS.

So I want to thank her. And it is fitting to say that this evening, because this evening, after we finish our discussions here, we are going to talk about the uninsured. And Lord knows that our communities of color share a heavy burden, disparate treatment, disparities that exist with chronic illnesses, and one of those being cancer, particularly African-American women who many, many times go undiagnosed. We need to do more in this area. And so we think of her today. We honor her, and we thank her family for the time that she served with us here on Earth.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. You have 1 minute, and the gentlewoman has 1½ minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. I would close, Madam Speaker, by saying that we heard many great stories about JUANITA and remembrances of her life, and we have lost a great friend, a great champion for our home State of California, and a great champion for our country. And as we mourn her loss, our condolences are shared with her family. Godspeed, JUANITA.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to Ms. MARCY KAPTUR from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I can say that Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD would be so happy to see Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE in the

chair tonight. And I thank Congresswoman DIANE WATSON for her compassionate service and certainly for this memorial service tonight. And I extend deepest condolences on behalf of the people of Ohio to the family of our beloved Congresswoman, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, her husband, Jim, her children, her grandchildren.

Having had the great pleasure of serving with her during her entire tenure, let me say, when I think of JUANITA, I think of a woman who was resilient, who was strong, determined, refined, accomplished, persevering and, indeed, courageous, a pioneer with a great sense of humor and, as a minister's daughter, a boundless sense of hope.

Even today, for a woman to chair a full committee of this House is a rarity. And for an African-American woman, she created the mold, the first African-American woman in the history of this country to chair a full committee in this House.

Just a few weeks ago, a new volume of "Women of Congress" was published, and hers is the first name in that volume, commissioned by order of the Chair of the House Administration Committee, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

There are some people who teach us how to live and indeed, she did. And many people can teach us how to die, and she has done that with her great dignity and her courage.

Just a few weeks ago, when NANCY PELOSI of California was sworn in as our first Speaker, I had the great honor of being one of the two Democratic tellers. JUANITA, as Chair of the House Administration Committee, sat to my right. I shall never forget that moment, and I think she lived partly for that moment.

May her strength comfort her family in these trying moments of bereavement. I believe God holds close those who journey toward the light in this Easter and Passover season. And may the angels of mercy lift her and lift the spirits of those who love her and bring comfort and bring peace.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a remarkably committed legislator. As the first African-American woman to chair a full committee in Congress, she was deeply dedicated to the work of the House Administration Committee. Through her chair, she was working on landmark legislation to ensure the integrity of our voting system.

At home, Representative MILLENDER-MCDONALD worked every day for her constituents on the issues of healthcare, economic development and housing. Representative MILLENDER-MCDONALD was engaged in a serious effort to revitalize the public housing in her district and was involved in a series of tours and meetings with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Alphonso Jackson, at both Imperial Courts and Nickerson Gardens aimed at providing better housing options for her constituents.

Recently, we joined together to lend our voices to the chorus of community leaders and

residents in a successful effort to extend funding for Martin Luther King Hospital.

Representative MILLENDER-MCDONALD will be missed not only by her constituents in the 37th district, but by all of the people who were touched by her service.

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, in my office is a wonderful photograph of JUANITA and I, arms raised in victory. It was taken as I announced my intention to run for Governor of California in 1998. She was right there, and I was clearly buoyed by her presence. Our friendship was forged in that tough campaign, and it remained strong.

JUANITA was a popular and highly regarded Member of this House. Those are not easy things to achieve in a very competitive workplace, so it is worth asking how she did it.

First, she was a loyal friend. Once she decided to endorse or support you, she never flinched—no matter how hot the heat. And second, she was a pro. She had a clear idea of what legislators can do, and she worked hard.

The results are obvious. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD served California's 37th congressional district well.

When she came to Congress, she decided to add "MILLENDER" to her name in order to honor her mother. Surely she honored her mother. But she also honored her constituents—and this Congress.

A good friend, superb colleague and class act, JUANITA, you will be missed.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as I remember my dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. JUANITA passed away April 22nd in her home State of California. She will be remembered as a strong woman and formidable legislator who broke down many barriers by becoming the first African-American woman in history to chair a committee in Congress, the House Administration Committee, and the first African-American woman to serve on the Carson City Council and the first to chair two committees in the California State Assembly.

I really got to know JUANITA when I co-chaired the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues and subsequently when she became the co-chair. She was a strong advocate for women's and minority rights and was a strong ally in the effort to combat human trafficking. JUANITA came to work with a passion and determination that is rarely found. She represented the 37th Congressional District with dignity and pride, proving to be an effective leader and caring Representative.

I especially want to extend my condolences to Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's husband, James, and to her five children and grandchildren. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I wish to offer my sincerest condolences to the family of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. My thoughts and prayers go out to them in their time of mourning.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD amassed many firsts and accomplishments during her life as a public servant by breaking racial and gender barriers. She was the first African-American woman to serve as Ranking Member and Chairman of the powerful House Committee on Administration. She was also the first woman to serve on the Carson City Council; the first to chair two powerful Cali-

fornia State Assembly committees—the Insurance Committee; and the Revenue & Taxation Committee in her first term as a state legislator. She was also the first African-American Democratic Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues and in that capacity she led the women on two groundbreaking meetings: One with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to talk about the plight of women globally and another with the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange to develop strategies for increasing women's investments and net worth.

In recognition of women who served in our military, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD initiated the first annual Memorial Day Tribute to Women in the Military at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery and she led the fight to secure \$15 million for the maintenance of the memorial. Most recently secured \$50 million for counseling services for our returning men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During her 6 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, her ability to reach across the aisle and effectively move bipartisan legislation was evident during her work on a range of issues, including ensuring equal rights for women and minorities, improving our education system, combating poverty, protecting voting rights, and stopping the genocide in Darfur.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD devoted her life to her family and to service on behalf of her constituents in the 37th District of California and to the Nation. Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER MCDONALD was truly a phenomenal woman. She is a friend and colleague who will be sorely missed.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sadness at the passing of my friend and colleague, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, a dedicated public servant, who worked tirelessly on behalf of her constituents and her country.

I had the privilege to serve with Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD on the House Administration Committee and also previously in the California State Assembly, and can attest to the passion, dignity, and grace she brought to her work.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD devoted much of her life to public service. In her career she was an educator and an advisor, a member of Carson's City Council, a California State assemblywoman and finally a Member of Congress.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's passion and drive were unmatched. She was an unwavering advocate for minority rights. She was a champion of women's health issues. She was an adamant opponent of the genocide in Darfur. And she was committed to securing election reform and security for our Nation's ports.

I admired Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's leadership and fervor in her many roles: as community leader, Member of Congress, and Chairwoman. All those who knew her and worked with her know the void she leaves with her passing. I extend my heartfelt condolences to her husband, James, her children and her grandchildren. She will be missed.

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, who bravely fought a battle with cancer

up until this past weekend. After a painful struggle, she's now at peace.

JUANITA and I both came to Congress in 1995. While we were on different sides of the aisle, I always respected her passion for a host of issues, and her willingness to work with the other side to find solutions. At only 68 years of age, it seemed she had many more years of public service ahead of her, and I'm sorry for the loss of a friend and colleague.

JUANITA became a good friend of mine back in 1999, when I was diagnosed with cancer. She made a point of reaching out to me to show her support, and I've always been grateful to her for going out of her way to lend a kind word and a compassionate smile.

Her passing is yet another reminder of how much more work is needed to continue our Nation's War on Cancer, in spite of the progress that's been made so far.

Today we mourn the loss of a friend, and our thoughts and prayers go out to her husband James, and her children and grandchildren.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2045

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise this evening to celebrate the life of my very good friend and colleague, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

I personally have known Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD for over 30 years. Our time together spans back before her days as a Member of this distinguished body when I was member of the Los Angeles Unified School Board and she was there as an administrator and then as a California State legislator. And then on that road she was elected to the Carson City Council.

JUANITA's distinguished life is a life of "firsts." She is the first African American woman in history to chair the Committee on House Administration, which oversees the operation of the House, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institute, and the National Zoo. The Committee on House Administration also oversees all Federal elections. JUANITA worked tire-

lessly to investigate all reports of voter irregularities and voter disenfranchisement. She was one of the first Members of Congress to call for a congressional hearing on reported voting irregularities in the State of Ohio. She played an important role in congressional election reform.

JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD was also the first African-American woman to serve on the Carson City Council and the first to hold the position of chairwoman for two powerful California State Assembly committees in her first term.

Like myself, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD at heart was an educator. After raising five children, JUANITA, at the age of 40, returned to school and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Redlands and a master's degree in educational administration from Cal State L.A.

She spent her early career in the classroom, teaching high school and working at a career center. It is here that JUANITA first demonstrated her ongoing interest in the lives of young people and issues that impact the lives of women and their children. But above all, JUANITA worked tirelessly for all the people in her community. And I want to say, all the people. She was a people person who had an uncanny skill to build and sustain networks.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, JUANITA worked, again, tirelessly to secure much-needed Federal assistance for Southern California's transportation needs, including funding for her passion: for the Alameda Corridor.

JUANITA's passing is a great loss to this institution as well as her constituents and as well as this Nation. She was a great citizen as well as a great person and would have made a lasting and important contribution to this body in her position as House Administration chair. She was making that contribution every single day.

And I would say to her, JUANITA, you missed the caucus. You missed the California Caucus. You missed the Black Caucus.

She said, I am so busy working, I don't have time for the caucuses. She was committed.

And on a personal note, Madam Speaker, when she was sworn in as a Congresswoman in her district, I went there. She had been sworn in here, and when she got up to speak, she said, You know, I was raised on a farm and I married early. And she said, I was so naive, when I had five children one after another, I just knew it was that orange juice, being raised on a farm. So I would tease her. I said, "JUANITA, watch out for the orange juice."

She was one of my closest friends and colleagues. She will be missed. And I want you to know she was raised by a father and her older sisters. She was the youngest. So she said, You know, on a farm we were wealthy. And she said, But it was my father who played the role of both parents. He set down

the principles and values by which I run my life. So in honor of my father, I am adding as my middle name, my maiden name, his last name. So, therefore, she became JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. And if you ever saw her signature, it was one of the most beautiful, graceful signatures. And she always took time to write "JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD." And I would go on correcting people when they said "JUANITA MCDONALD." I said, "No. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD."

So, JUANITA, we celebrate you and we know that you are here in these Chambers today. And to end my piece and allow the others, we did a taping with our voices on it, and at the end we sang to her "Dreamgirls." We will always be dreaming of our JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I join with my colleagues from all across America who have spent much of the evening extolling the virtues of our colleague JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Much has been said, and yet there is much that can, in fact, be added.

As a matter of fact, when I first came to Congress, JUANITA was one of the first persons that my wife and I met. So my wife immediately became a JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD fan. And I said to her, Vera, it is all right for you to be a JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD fan, but don't try to dress like her. We can't afford it.

JUANITA was, in fact, a charming, delightful, snazzy lady, the essence of femininity, but as tough as a nail. As a matter of fact, I don't know if a week went by that I didn't receive some communique from her talking about some issue or explaining something that she had done or something that she had worked on. And as I listened to all of my colleagues talk about her many "firsts," the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council, the first African American woman to render the national Democratic response to President Bush's weekly radio address, the first to be named Honorary Curator of the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, and the first Democratic chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues. Obviously, she was many firsts. And I guess maybe the

poet Homer had her in mind when he said that there are pioneer souls that go where highways never ran, but let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man.

And I guess he had JUANITA in mind as he talked about why would I live in my house by the side of the road as the race of men go by. Men who are good, men who are bad, men who are wise, foolish, but then so am I. So why would I not simply be, as JUANITA has been, one who understood the relationship between people, moving across aisles, moving across boundaries to accomplish and get things done.

So on behalf of my family and me and all of the residents of the Seventh Congressional District of Illinois, we extend our greatest condolences to her family and say that we too would hope to live in the house by the side of the road like JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD and be a friend to mankind.

#### JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I am so honored to see all of our colleagues rise and extol all of the great virtues of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, talking about her historic firsts, her role as mayor, city councilperson, the first African-American woman to chair a committee in the House, and all of the great things that she did, things that commanded the attention of the whole world.

But I just want to say, as a member of the freshman class, that coming to Congress, trying to figure out what is going on around here, things going by so quickly, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD had time for people in our situation, just trying to figure out what was happening. She had a moment to say, How is it going? Did you know where this was or where that was, and what can I do to help you?

So in life, Madam Speaker, people will often remember the great things that we did that command headlines and find things that we do that command public attention. But greatness is measured by the small things in life, and in those small things she was great also.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 2100

#### JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, yesterday we lost a devoted colleague and

friend, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly on behalf of her constituents in the 37th Congressional District of California. As we know, prior to her coming to Congress, she made a name for herself as the first African American woman to serve on the City Council in Carson City and the chairwoman of two powerful committees, Insurance and Revenue.

But many people don't know that in recognition of women who served our country in uniform during wartime, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD initiated the first annual Memorial Day Tribute to Women in the Military at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. And she led the fight to secure \$15 million for the maintenance of the memorial. She also secured \$50 million for counseling services for our returning men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Bold initiatives have been her trademark. In 2005, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD, along with other CBC members, unveiled a portrait of Joseph Rainey, the first African-American to be seated in Congress. She was very proud of that because she contacted members of his family who are alive today, and there was a tremendous celebration.

Internationally, she spoke out against genocide in Cambodia and Darfur and other regions of the world where human rights are in danger. She worked with former Secretary of State Madeline Albright and Ambassador John Miller on human trafficking and women's rights issues globally.

She reminds me of a poem I learned as a youngster in elementary school, actually; but it is appropriate because her memory will live on. The poem is called, "The Arrow and a Song." It said:

"I shot an arrow into the air, it fell to Earth I know not where. For so swiftly it flew, my sight could not follow it in its flight.

"I sang a song into the air, it fell to Earth I know not where. For who has sight so keen and strong that can follow the flight of a song? But long, long afterwards in an oak I found the arrow still unbroke. And the song, from beginning to end, I found again in the heart of a friend."

And so I say that to say that what JUANITA did will live on. Her work for the persons who worked in the Library of Congress who were minorities and women who were being terminated, and we felt unfairly, she took on that responsibility to fight to see that those women, primarily, would be placed in other positions.

She worked hard, and the dignity and the beauty and her perfection were certainly noticed. And I can tell you, the women talk about the grace that she had. Well, let me make it clear that the men also noticed that grace and that beauty and that charm. And so we

will remember her as she moves on up that highway.

#### JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLISON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. You know, it is heartwarming to sit here for a while and to listen to these personal tales of our good friend, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

I first got to know JUANITA in our days as activists during the 1980s on the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee. Both of us entered State government in the early nineties; both of us came here to Congress in the mid-90s.

JUANITA broke barriers. JUANITA led the charge. She was the first African-American woman on the Carson City Council, the first African-American woman to chair the Revenue and Taxation Committee of the California Assembly, where I enjoyed working with her on State tax issues. JUANITA was the first African-American woman to give the Democratic Radio Address response. And finally, she was the first African-American woman to serve as Chair of the House Administration Committee.

Now, her fine work on that committee has been detailed by so many of the prior speakers who have come to this floor. And the prior speakers have also spoke of her work on the Transportation Committee, where we in Southern California are so grateful to her for her efforts on behalf of the Alameda corridor.

JUANITA will be missed, of course, by her husband James, by her five children and by her five grandchildren. She will be remembered here for her record of legislative accomplishment, and she will be remembered here for the spunk she showed every day. And finally, she will be remembered for the courage she showed in these final days, because JUANITA barely mentioned to her closest friends that she was a bit under the weather. Right up to the end she was fighting the good fight. JUANITA's courage and strength will be remembered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. We already miss you, your



beautiful face, your elegance and grace, your tenacity and spirit. Your absence will leave a void that will never, ever be filled. And that is what we know about you here without question in the House of Representatives, so we can only guess how much you are going to be missed by your beloved family. They, in their grief, however, can always take solace in their pride and in their love and their appreciation of such an amazing woman.

Beloved wife, mother of five, grandmother of five, Member of the California Assembly, Member of the United States House of Representatives, and in the end, the very first African American woman to become chairwoman of a full committee.

Because of this position, this elegant persuasive woman's portrait will hang in the Halls of Congress for the rest of time. And over the years she will watch over the activities of her House Administration Committee. And believe me, she will be expecting excellence. So while JUANITA rests, she expects each and every one of us to keep on going until we can go no more; and because of her example, we will do our very best.

We already miss you, JUANITA, and we will remember you always.

#### JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I also wish to thank my good friend from California (Ms. WATSON).

I, too, Mr. Speaker, want to take this opportunity to associate myself with the remarks made by our colleagues this evening in tribute to Congressman JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend to her family our condolences. She was a strong and she was an effective leader for the people of the 37th Congressional District of California, and we are going to miss her here in Congress.

JUANITA took a special interest in the people of Guam. When I first met her, I was a freshman. She stopped me in the hall and she said, Are you the new representative from Guam? I said, yes. And she introduced herself and she said, I want you to know that I have many people from Guam in my district.

She attended our liberation wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington. I will never forget it. And each time we met, whether it was here on the floor or in the hall, she would always ask me about the people of Guam.

She was a strong leader. She made her mark here in Congress. And I extend to her family, her husband, her children, her grandchildren, our deepest sympathies.

God bless you, JUANITA, for everything that you did for the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MEEKS of New York addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCOTT of Virginia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TOWNS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### WHY THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE MATTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, tonight I plan to speak on the anniversary of the Armenian genocide; but before I do, I want to join my colleagues in expressing my sincere condolence at the passing of JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD, someone who in my very first days of Congress impressed me as a courageous, intelligent, dedicated public servant who, every time I went to her for help on an issue in her committee or outside her committee, was generous with her time and her energy, always ready to help, always of good cheer, and someone that I think enjoyed the unanimous and bipartisan re-

spect of everyone in this body. Her memory will be cherished; her presence will be deeply missed.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the 92nd anniversary of the start of the Armenian genocide. In January, I introduced a resolution in the House, along with my colleagues, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KNOLLENBERG and Mr. RADANOVICH, that would recognize the Armenian genocide. This resolution should be passed. Ghazaros Kademian is one reason why.

Ghazaros Kademian was just 6 years old when his family was forced into exile by Ottoman Turks bent on annihilating the Armenian people. His father was murdered by Turk gendarmes, and the rest of his family was forced to flee on foot to Kirkuk, where his mother died from cold and hunger. He was separated from his siblings and orphaned.

Mr. Kademian's story is terrible, but is not remarkable. Over a million and a half Armenians were murdered in the first genocide of the last century as the Ottoman Empire used the cloak of war to wipe out a people it considered alien or disloyal. This mammoth crime was well known at the time. Newspapers of the day were filled with stories about the murder of the Armenians. "Appeal to Turkey to Stop Massacres" headlined the New York Times on April 28, 1915, just as the killing began. By October 7 of that year, the Times reported that 800,000 Armenians had been slain in cold blood in Asia Minor. In mid-December of 1915, the Times spoke of a million Armenians killed or in exile.

Thousands of pages of evidence documenting the atrocities rest in our own National Archives. Prominent citizens of the day, including America's ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, and Britain's Lord Bryce, reported on the massacres in great detail. Morgenthau was appalled at what he would later call sadistic orgies of rape, torture, and murder. "When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race. They understood this well and made no particular attempt to conceal the fact."

Even those who most ardently advocated sweeping the murder of a million and a half people under the rug of history have conceded that the vast majority of historians accept the Armenian genocide as historic fact. And how could they not? For it was the Government of Turkey that in early 1919 held a number of well-publicized trials of some of the young Turk leaders and executed the Keimal Bey, governor of Diarbekir, specifically for his role as one of the Ottoman Empire's most savage persecutors of the Armenian people. The trials were as widely covered in the American press as was the genocide itself.

So if the facts are not in dispute, why are so many nations complicit in modern Turkey's strenuous efforts to deny

the genocide ever took place? First, opponents argue that recognizing the unpleasant facts of the genocide and of the mass murder risk alienating an important alliance with Turkey. There is no question that Turkey is bitterly opposed to recognition and is threatening our military and commercial relationship, including access to the Incirlik air base, but Turkey has made similar threats to other nations in the past only to retreat from them and the European Union's insistence that Ankara recognize the crimes of its Ottoman's forebears before Turkey is admitted to the EU has not dimmed Turkish enthusiasm for joining the EU.

If Turkish relations with the U.S. do suffer, it is far more likely that the genocide recognition will be a pretext. The Bush administration has done such a poor job managing our relations with Turkey over the last 6 years that we have already seen the limits of the U.S.-Turkish alliance tested and found lacking.

During the run-up to the war in Iraq, Turkey denied us permission to bring in ground forces from its soil, allowing the Saddam Fedeyeen to melt away and form the basis of a now persistent insurgency. Oddly enough, critics of recognition decry it as pandering to the victims, but are only too happy to pander to the sensibilities of an inconsistent ally, and one that has shown no qualms about accusing the U.S. of genocide in Iraq.

Second, opponents take issue with the timing of the resolution and argue that Turkey is making progress with recognizing the dark chapters of its history. This claim lost all credibility when Orhan Pamuk, Turkey's Nobel Prize winning author, was brought up on charges of "insulting Turkishness" for alluding to the genocide, and Turkish Armenian publisher Hrant Dink was gunned down outside his office in Istanbul earlier this year.

Tomorrow marks the 92nd Anniversary of start of the Armenian Genocide. In January, I introduced a resolution in the House that would recognize the Armenian Genocide. It should be passed. Ghazaros Kademian is one reason why.

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comment "on another's history or morality." Such a ludicrous policy would condemn Congress to silence on a host of human rights abuses around the world. After more than ninety years and with only a few survivors left, if the time is not right now to recognize the Armenian Genocide, when will it be?

But the most pernicious argument against recognition is the claim that speaking the truth would harm relations with Turkey "for no good reason." How can we claim the moral authority to decry the genocide in Darfur, as we must, if we are unwilling to deplore other genocides when it would inconvenience an ally? Elie Wiesel has described the denial of genocide as the final stage of genocide—a double killing. If you don't think he's right, talk to Ghazaros Kademian. But you had better hurry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ESHOO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H. Res. 328.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

□ 2115

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLISON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TIERNEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS RE-MEMBERS THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 92nd anniversary and commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. Yesterday, I had the privilege to join the Armenian-American community of Worcester, Massachusetts, including survivors of the Genocide and their families, and many dignitaries of Central Massachusetts and the Commonwealth at an event remembering the Armenian Genocide and the role it plays in understanding contemporary events.

I am submitting today for the RECORD a copy of the remarks I made at this special commemoration and an article that appeared in the Worcester Telegram and Gazette.

#### WORCESTER ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OBSERVANCE

I want to thank Father Terzian and the Armenian Church of Our Savior for inviting me

to participate in this remembrance—and I'm very pleased to be here with Lt. Governor Tim Murray and the Mayor of Worcester, Konstantina Lukes. But I am especially honored to be here with the Worcester Armenian-American community, survivors of the Armenian Genocide, and their families.

There are several reasons why I look forward to this event each year.

First and foremost, it gives me an opportunity to reconnect with all of you, the Worcester Armenian-American community, and to thank you for all your fine work and contributions to our city.

Second, it is a moment when we recommit ourselves to pressing the United States government to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide.

And finally, it provides me each year with a moment to reflect on our world; and on how I as an individual, we as a community, and we as a Nation are responding to genocide and crimes against humanity that, sadly and unbelievably, are carried out nearly every day in some part of the world.

I believe that this year there is a very good chance that the U.S. House of Representatives might actually pass H. Res. 106, the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

I can tell that this is a real possibility because for the first time in years, I'm receiving materials arguing against the resolution and against the official recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

I believe adopting the Armenian Genocide Resolution is the right thing to do:

As a matter of morality—and in the name of humanity—the United States should recognize and condemn all genocides.

In the name of historic truth—and in honor of the historic role so many American diplomatic personnel and humanitarian and relief workers played in saving lives and condemning the genocide as it was taking place—the U.S. especially should recognize the Armenian Genocide.

And in the hope of preventing future genocides—we have to recognize and honor the truth of the past. Denial of the Armenian Genocide—just like denial of the Holocaust—makes future genocides more likely, not less.

No Nation, not Turkey or any other country, should be allowed to block the official recognition or commemoration or the teaching of historic truth about the Armenian Genocide.

It's ironic that the current Turkish government doesn't seem to realize that the more it denies the Armenian Genocide, the more people begin to think that there really is a connection between the Turks who carried out the Armenian Genocide at the beginning of the 20th century and today's 21st century government.

By denying the truth, Turkey undermines its own standing throughout the world, blocks its own acceptance into the European family, and increases regional tensions, especially with neighboring Armenia. Turkey's recognition of the Genocide, its reconciliation with the past, would widely be viewed as the act of a mature democracy, which the world would rush to embrace and reward.

This is why America must also officially recognize the Armenian Genocide.

A couple of weeks ago, I was in eastern Chad. And the reality of genocide was right before my eyes.

There are over 250,000 refugees from Darfur, Sudan living in camps inside Chad. Thanks to the many international and humanitarian workers who have chosen to work and help these survivors of the violence taking place every day in Darfur, the camps are well-organized and efficient.

But I'd like to describe for you some of what I saw—and what the Darfur refugees told me about what they had witnessed.

I met with individuals and families who had been forced to flee their villages in Darfur. Each had a story about loved ones murdered, homes destroyed, people and family left behind. Many didn't know if some of their family or children were even alive.

I talked with one woman who was harvesting onions at a small agricultural site in Camp Gaga, a Darfur refugee camp a couple of hours from the town of Abeche in eastern Chad. She held a tiny baby in her arms as she worked on her onion patch. She told me the Janjaweed attacked her village so quickly and so ferociously that she couldn't even bury her husband who was struck down in the attack; she barely had time to cover him with a sheet before she escaped with her baby and children. She feels guilty and thinks about this all the time. And she now hopes to stay alive and return, someday, to her village.

I met with several other men and women, refugees from Darfur, at the Goz Amer Camp near the town of Koukou, Chad. This is a much larger and older camp. Many of the people have been here for 3 years or so. These people were being interviewed for the eyewitness testimony regarding crimes against humanity that some day may be reviewed by the International Criminal Court.

I went to eastern Chad to meet and talk with refugees from Darfur because the Government of Sudan wouldn't give me a visa to enter their country.

But sometimes things happen for a reason, I believe. Because not only did I learn about the reality of Darfur—I personally discovered Chad.

The war in Darfur is bleeding into Chad, as well as other neighboring countries.

While I was in Chad, two "towns"—Tiero and Marena, which actually consist of about 31 small villages—were attacked by "Janjaweed" militias operating inside Chad. According to the Chadian survivors who I talked to—they described their attackers as a combination of Sudanese Janjaweed and Chadian Janjaweed allies. They were armed. They were on horseback. The attacks started at about five in the morning, and came in about 3 distinct waves of attack. They shot randomly, at everything and everyone. Women, children, men, livestock, fell to the earth dead or wounded. Homes were burned to the ground. Abandoned crockery, left charred and broken.

These Chadians—now internally displaced inside their own country—were gathering in the thousands near Koukou—some estimates were 8,000-9,000. Many walked, some arrived on the backs of burros, and many others were being trucked in by humanitarian groups. U.N. agencies and NGOs were rushing to provide them with emergency aid and to set up an emergency operations site where people could receive food, water, medical aid, and some form of shelter from the relentless heat.

These new internally displaced now join the more than 140,000 Chadian IDPs.

I had the privilege to watch UNHCR, UNICEF, Doctors without Borders (Medicins sans Frontieres), the ICRC, Italian Aid, and the World Food Program work together to provide emergency relief to these traumatized people.

So this year, as we meet to remember and commemorate the 92nd Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, I'm struggling to find meaning in the words, "Never Again."

I'm thankful to this community especially, which has worked tirelessly for nearly a century, to keep alive the historic memory of the Armenian Genocide and to speak out, condemn and organize against the genocides—too many—that mark the past nine decades of human history.

Thank you for your persistence. Thank you for your commitment to take action.

Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

And thank you, once again, for including me in this special program.

[From the Worcester Telegram and Gazette, Apr. 23, 2007]

'LOOK AT DARFUR,' ARMENIANS SAY  
GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE RESONATES

(By Mike Elfland)

WORCESTER.—The region's Armenian community yesterday recognized a genocide that for many has a meaning with an intensifying importance.

References to Darfur and the recent slaying of a journalist who defied the Turkish government were made throughout yesterday's commemoration of what is known as the Armenian genocide. On April 24, 1915, hundreds of Armenian intellectuals, notably political leaders, were rounded up and eventually killed by the Turkish government. More than 1.5 million Armenians would later die at the hands of the Ottoman Turks, with thousands forcibly removed from Armenia to Syria, where many died in the desert of thirst and hunger.

"We say, 'Look at Darfur,'" said Richard O. Asadoorian, the host speaker at the commemoration, referring to the region in Sudan where black Africans are being massacred by militias supported by the Arab-dominated government. Mr. Asadoorian urged Armenians not to let time lessen the importance of what happened 92 years ago.

Many survivors of the genocide eventually settled in the Worcester area. A significant Armenian population remains, and their pride in their ancestry was evident yesterday at the Armenian Church of Our Saviour Cultural Center on Boynton Street, where more than 200 gathered for a welcome history lesson.

Nancy Hovhanesian, Thomas Tashjian and Ara G. Asadoorian recounted stories told to them by grandparents and other older relatives who survived the genocide. Mrs. Hovhanesian talked of the great-grandparents she never knew and of how her grandparents' pain was absorbed by her mother.

Andrea Kisiel, a sophomore at South High Community School, shared her views of the genocide in an award-winning essay. Andrea took top honors for her take on "The Contemporary Relevance of the Armenian Genocide," the subject of an essay contest sponsored by the Greater Worcester Armenian Genocide Commemoration Committee.

Andrea, who is not of Armenian descent, wrote of a recent trip to Washington, where she visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and had an eye-opening experience about history.

She wrote: "Then, I saw something that astounded me, surprised me, wrenched my heart out of my chest. There, on the wall commemorating all of the poor souls who had been discriminated against, snatched away from familiarity, and tortured ruthlessly until put to death, was inscribed my family name. My name which was not from Jewish descent. My name which was Polish and Catholic. My name that I had not the slightest idea could possibly be connected with a mass genocide. My very own name, there on the wall."

Although she has no known relatives who died in the Holocaust, said Andrea, the experience in Washington made her realize the importance of the Armenian genocide to its survivors.

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Murray, U.S. Rep. James McGovern, D-Worcester, state Sen. Harriette L. Chandler, D-Worcester, and Mayor Konstantina B. Lukes were among the speakers at the 2½-hour commemoration. Both connected the past deaths of Armenians to the continuing genocide in the

Darfur region of Sudan. Mr. McGovern has long pushed for increased U.S. involvement in saving thousands of refugees.

Mr. McGovern, who was greeted enthusiastically yesterday, backs legislation that would require the U.S. government to officially recognize the Armenian genocide. Some say the reluctance is tied to deference to Turkey's importance to America's interests abroad. Modern Turkey strongly rejects the characterization of what happened as genocide.

Loud applause erupted after the congressman said he would direct naysayers to a public library where they could learn about the deaths of Armenians. "Facts are stubborn things," he said.

The main speaker was filmmaker Apo Torosyan, a native of Istanbul, Turkey, who now lives in Peabody. His documentary, "Voices," finished this year, is based on interviews with three survivors of the genocide. After he began making documentaries, Mr. Torosyan was not allowed to return to Turkey.

A 15-minute version of "Voices" was shown yesterday.

Mr. Torosyan spoke passionately about the Jan. 19 slaying in Turkey of Hrant Dink, a Turkish citizen of Armenian descent who was the editor of a Turkish-Armenian newspaper. His enemies included nationalist Turks who resented his use of the genocide label. He was killed outside his office in Istanbul.

The commemoration was organized by members of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church and the Armenian Church of the Martyrs.

#### HEALTH CARE ISSUES AFFECTING MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker for the opportunity to serve as moderator for this special designated time for recognition under Special Orders for celebration of health care, and, in particular, the uninsured.

Tonight I have several colleagues who will be joining me to speak on different topics with respect to health care issues affecting minority communities. Just to give you a brief summary of some of the topics we will touch on, obviously reauthorization of SCHIP, language access, obesity, diabetes, cancer, tobacco, HIV and AIDS, health professions, community health workers, environmental health and Medicaid citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to recognize National Minority Health Month. This week is Covering the Uninsured

Week. Tonight you are going to hear from some of my colleagues representing the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Asian Pacific Islander Caucus and their efforts to improve health care in our communities.

Did you know that life expectancy and overall health have improved in recent years for large numbers of Americans due to an increase in and focus on preventive medicine and new advances in medical technology? However, not all Americans are faring that well, particularly communities of color, which continue to suffer from significant disparities in overall rate of disease incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality and survival rates in the population, as compared to the health status of the general population.

The National Minority Health Month was launched in an effort to eliminate health disparities and to improve health status of minority populations across the country. This month was created in response to Healthy People 2010, a set of comprehensive health objectives established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Disparities continue to persist, and we must eliminate health disparities by identifying significant opportunities to improve health care.

There are disparities in the burden of illness and death experienced by African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and American Indian and Alaskan Natives as compared to the U.S. population as a whole.

I am pleased to once again be working with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, the Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Asian Pacific Islander Caucus to develop a comprehensive tri-caucus health disparities bill. Our bill will address the importance of language access, health professions, training, data collection and health coverage for immigrants. Our colleagues in the Senate are also working on a disparities bill, and I hope that they too will pass legislation that will truly save the lives of millions of minorities. We must do more to better the health of our population, which includes all communities of color.

With that, I want to just briefly touch on this issue of the uninsured. Today marks the start of the fifth year of Covering the Uninsured Week. Although the United States has one of the best health care systems in the world, not everyone has the means to access our health care system. The number of uninsured people affects us all and is a national problem that needs a national solution.

We all know that lack of health insurance results in reduced access to care. Access can be defined as the ability to get to health services, receive service at the right time, and obtain the appropriate services necessary to promote the best health outcomes possible.

Reduced access could mean that someone is less likely to have regular sources of care, less likely to receive preventive services and more likely to use emergency departments as primary sources of care. The long-term consequences of reduced access to care include lower quality of life, higher mortality rates and the decline of the population's overall health.

Despite the growth of our economy, the number of uninsured persons continues to increase. In 2005, more than 44 million people were uninsured, and of that number, 14 million were Latinos.

The cost of private health insurance continues to rise astronomically, and we hear that every single day when we go back home to our districts. Health insurance premiums continue to rise by double-digit rates each year, and over 80 percent of the uninsured come from working families, people who are working and getting a paycheck. While two-thirds of uninsured children are eligible for public programs such as Medicaid and the SCHIP program, most are still uninsured.

These adults also are low-income populations who are not eligible for public programs but have incomes below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level. This group is composed predominantly of parents and childless adults who work but may have difficulty in obtaining and affording coverage. Due to the low Medicaid eligibility level for parents, many uninsured parents have children who qualify for public coverage but do not qualify, themselves, as parents. What an irony.

Members of racial and ethnic minority groups make up a large number, a disproportionate share, of the uninsured population. The uninsured rate for Latinos was 33 percent in 2005, 20 percent for African Americans and 18 percent for Asians and 30 percent for Native Americans. They lack health care coverage.

In addition to impacting health and the finances of the uninsured themselves, the lack of health care coverage has had repercussions for all of us in America. Many hospitals, as you know, are currently struggling under the strain of providing uncompensated emergency care to uninsured individuals.

In my own district in California, community health centers bear the brunt of responsibility for treating the uninsured. These community health centers are often the first place that the uninsured turn to when seeking health care services. These community health centers are a vital part of our health care safety net.

Poor health leads to poor financial status, and a never-ending cycle of low socioeconomic status often leads to poor health. The core values for a strong and secure America should include the right to universal access to affordable, high-quality health care for all.

In a country that prides itself on equality, it is evident that our health

care system is broken when people suffer from a lack of access to health insurance and to quality care. We must make health care services affordable and provide quality through linguistically and culturally competent services for all Americans. That must be our national priority.

I want to refer myself to the State Children's Health Insurance program, known by many as SCHIP, which covers currently 6 million children, building on Medicaid's coverage of 28 million children. However, statistically speaking, 9 million children remain uninsured.

Over the past decade, SCHIP and Medicaid together have reduced the uninsured rate among low-income children by one-third. We know that uninsured children are more likely to receive cost-effective preventive services and are healthier, which leads to greater success in school and life. Although programs such as SCHIP and Medicaid have decreased the number of uninsured children, the lack of funding and outreach efforts have left millions of those children ineligible without any coverage. Reducing disparities in children's access to health care is extremely important and should be one of our biggest priorities here in Congress.

For example, uninsured African American and Latino children are less likely to have a personal doctor and are more likely to forego needed medical care than any other group of uninsured children. More than half of insured African American children, 51 percent, and insured Latino children, 50 percent, are covered by Medicaid and SCHIP. Nearly 95 percent of eligible but uninsured children live in families with incomes below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level, which is \$33,200 for a family of three, and over 40 percent of this population is Latino.

Enrollment in SCHIP has proven to reduce disparities in access to health care services as well as reducing the coverage gap for minority children. More than 80 percent of African American children and 70 percent of uninsured Latino children appear to be eligible for this public coverage, but currently are not enrolled.

Additional funding for SCHIP, as you know, is necessary for the coverage of all uninsured. SCHIP plays a critical role for children of color. After SCHIP was created back in 1997, the percent of uninsured children steadily declined from a high of 15.4 percent in 1998 to a low of 10 percent in 2004, and for racial and ethnic minorities the decline was remarkable. In 1998, roughly 30 percent of Latino children, 20 percent of African American, and 18 percent of Asian Pacific Islander children were uninsured. In 2004, those numbers had dropped to about 21 percent, 12 percent and 8 percent respectively.

In addition to reducing the coverage gap for minority children, SCHIP enrollment has helped to reduce disparities in access to health care services. For example, a study of children en-

rolled in New York's SCHIP program for one year found an almost complete elimination of these disparities and the number of children with unmet health care needs decreased. A study from California's SCHIP population confirmed those results as well. Across racial and ethnic groups, SCHIP enrollment was associated with a significant reduction in disparities and access to needed care.

We need adequate SCHIP reauthorization. Currently there is insufficient Federal funding for SCHIP to cover the children currently enrolled. We need additional money to cover them and to expand coverage to uninsured children who are eligible.

In order to expand health coverage for minority children, we also need to address the underlying barriers to enrollment in Medicaid and SCHIP that minorities are more likely to face; as an example, the distrust of government and a health care system where language may not be spoken adequately to the different groups that are affected. And misinformation about eligibility rules is often complicating the process for many who don't understand the paperwork.

Enrollment strategies targeted to minority communities, including the use of community health workers, known as promotoras, could help guide families through the enrollment process and have been proven to increase enrollment and reduce disparities. We must improve outreach efforts and simplify enrollment in order to reach the millions of unenrolled children from communities of color who are eligible for Medicaid and the SCHIP program. This year, with the reauthorization of SCHIP, this is an opportunity for us to address racial and ethnic disparities in children's access to health care. I hope that we can work together with our colleagues across the aisle to begin the debate and see that we reauthorize these programs that are so vitally needed.

I am very pleased this evening to have one of my colleagues, the gentlewoman from Guam, who has chaired the Congressional Asian Pacific Islander Caucus Task Force on Health who has joined me this evening. She has been a pioneer on health care access and will give us, I am sure, very informative data regarding the problems that are faced currently in the Asian Pacific Islander community. I welcome her this evening.

I gladly yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague and good friend, HILDA SOLIS, for bringing this forum together.

Tonight I come to the floor to take part in a very important dialogue about National Health Month that has been organized, as I said earlier, by my colleague from California, Congresswoman HILDA SOLIS. Congresswoman SOLIS' leadership in the area of minority health disparities, particularly with regard to environmental health

factors, is strong and it has raised awareness of these issues on Capitol Hill.

I thank her for yielding me the time, and I commend her for her efforts, along with those of the members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus, and my colleagues in the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, in ensuring that minority health disparities are on the national agenda.

□ 2130

I am here tonight as the Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Health Task Force to recognize April as National Minority Health Month. Designated in 2001, National Minority Health Month is sponsored by the National Minority Quality Forum, an organization dedicated to addressing and eliminating the disparity in care, treatment, and access faced by racial and ethnic minority populations.

The National Minority Quality Forum has been a leader in addressing these disparities and since 2004 has hosted a national summit each year to address these issues. Because the fourth annual summit began today in Washington, D.C., this is an opportune time to bring further awareness of the increasing need to address health disparities. It is very important that within this dialogue surrounding minority health disparities, that the needs of Asian American and Pacific Islanders are included. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders face a number of hurdles towards receiving adequate health care stemming from linguistic and cultural challenges, and a lack of data collection.

Based on the following statistics, the health care disparities in the Asian American and Pacific Islander community become readily apparent, according to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

Ms. SOLIS covered in detail the lack of insurance coverage. I am here to give statistics on the diseases prevalent among minorities.

Asian American and Pacific Islander women have the lowest rate of cancer screening compared to other ethnic groups. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make up over half of the cases of chronic hepatitis B. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make up 20 percent of all cases of tuberculosis; and Vietnamese Americans are 13 times more likely to die of liver cancer than Caucasians.

There are many diseases and illnesses that disproportionately affect communities of color, ranging from HIV/AIDS to diabetes. Hepatitis B, which disproportionately affects the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, is often overlooked.

Today as we recognize National Minority Health Month, I would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness about this deadly disease. Hepatitis B is an infection caused by the

hepatitis B virus. Usually, people infected with the disease do not show early symptoms. But if left undetected, it may lead to cirrhosis of the liver, liver failure, and liver cancer. The statistics regarding hepatitis B are alarming. According to the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, one in 10 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are chronically infected with hepatitis B.

And of all those infected with hepatitis B in the United States, 50 percent are Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and liver cancer is the leading cause of death for Laotian American men in California.

The promising thing with hepatitis B is there is a three-shot vaccination series that can prevent hepatitis B and its dire consequences. Unfortunately, only one in 10 Asian American and Pacific Islander children have received the vaccination series. So with the proper education, outreach, and funding, I hope that we can address the killer disease within the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community, increase the vaccination rate, address the need for early detection and monitoring, and improve the quality of life for the people and families that live with hepatitis B.

Additionally, I hope we take this opportunity during National Minority Health Month to strengthen data collection and dissemination that will lead to improved access to health care for all racial and ethnic minority communities across the United States.

Again, as the Chair of the Health Care Task Force for the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I want to thank my colleague, Ms. SOLIS, for organizing tonight's Special Order speech on the occasion of National Minority Health Month and for the purposes of generating greater attention and raising awareness to the disparities in access to quality health care that our minority communities face and that deserve to be eliminated.

Ms. SOLIS. I thank the gentlewoman from Guam, and I would like to at this time thank her for her hard work and deliberations in the past few years as a strong member of the tri-caucus working on health care issues. I know she is going to continue to lead and be a voice for those underrepresented communities.

I would like to now recognize a very special individual who is Chair of our Subcommittee on Health on Energy and Commerce, but also plays a very important role in representing the Native Americans in our great country and that is the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Thank you. I want to thank my colleague from California and also my colleague from Guam. I know that for a number of years now they have both been involved in the health care disparities issue, and have actually put together legislation that we have tried to get passed for several years. It was a little difficult with the

Republican majority. And hopefully now with the Democratic majority, we can address those health disparities and concerns.

I would like to talk about the Native American aspect of this. And I also want to mention that addressing the concerns of minority health care is important in my district because we do have many Asian Americans. We have the largest number of Indian Americans of any congressional district, and by that I mean Asian Indian Americans, and also a large Latino and African American population in my district.

I just know when I go and visit some of the hospitals or community health centers, many times the issue is brought to my attention, whether it is data collection which has already been mentioned tonight, or it is the need for more minority health care professionals, be they doctors, nurses or whatever, or even that more research attention needs to be paid to diseases or afflictions that basically impact the minority communities in disproportionate ways.

It is very important that we address this and we need legislation, and we will move forward with the health care disparities legislation that my colleagues have really championed over the last few years.

I want to talk about Native Americans. I actually don't have any federally enrolled Native American tribes in my district or even in New Jersey. We have quite a few, we just don't have any recognized tribes at a Federal level. We have five that are State recognized. Unless you are federally recognized and enrolled with the Department of the Interior, you are not for the most part eligible for the health service.

American Indians are a little unique in that unlike most Americans, they have a right pursuant to their treaties and the Constitution to health care. When they gave their lands up to the Federal Government by treaty, they were given the right to health care. That, of course, doesn't necessarily mean they can all access it because a lot of them don't necessarily live on the reservation, and that is one of the reasons why we have urban health centers around the country, including several in California, because many Native Americans now do live in L.A. and in some of the larger cities, and don't necessarily live on their homelands on the reservations.

So we need to address their concerns in not only providing hospitals and clinics in their homelands, on the reservations, but also in the urban areas where many now reside.

Unfortunately, in the last few years, and I know I sound so partisan and I don't mean to be, but the amount of money that was made available in the last 12 years under the Republican Congress was really not sufficient. There is a need for a lot more dollars. This year we did budget significantly more for

the Indian Health Service, but we also need to reauthorize the Indian Health Service because it hasn't been reauthorized since 2000.

I have sponsored legislation called the Indian Health Care Improvement Act which will be marked up in the Resources Committee this year and will come to the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Health Subcommittee, and we will try to get it passed in this Congress.

When you talk about Native Americans and the disparities, the disparities are just incredible. When we had a hearing on the Indian Health Care Improvement Act in the Resources Committee a few weeks ago, I asked a question about how many American Indian or Native American doctors there were in the United States. I could not believe the number. There are less than 500, somewhere between 400 and 500 Native American physicians for a Native American population that is probably over 2 million. I don't know what that works out to percentage-wise, but there is clearly a need for scholarship and grant and loan programs that would specifically target the Native American community so we can have not 400 doctors but at least 4,000 or maybe 40,000 when you talk about a community that has over 2 million people.

And the same is true, and I don't have the statistics for nurses or other health care professionals, but there are really very few Native American health care providers, and we need to boost those numbers up and allow for opportunities to get more health care professionals.

With regard to actual treatment, if they are not on the reservation and able to access the Indian health care hospital or clinic, it is very difficult. There is a huge unemployment rate. Even if you are on a reservation, sometimes distances are great because many Native Americans live in rural areas where health care is simply not available.

We also have the phenomenon of diseases or afflictions that target that community. The incidence of diabetes, juvenile or type 2 diabetes, is for many tribes over 50 percent. I have been to some where the numbers are over 60 percent. We need a lot more research into the reasons why, in the example of diabetes, but I could talk about other diseases or health care problems, why the incidence is so high and what could be done.

For example, there has been some effort to look at nutrition as an answer, the feeling that many Native Americans, for example, used to live on a subsistence diet. If they were a desert people, they would eat foods that they gathered in a desert. Or they may have lived on a ranch or in a situation where they were getting a lot more natural foods, and now as those opportunities have eased to exist and they are eating processed foods, there is a lot of evidence to suggest that is a major reason



for diabetes. This is the type of thing we need. We need research into those kinds of afflictions as to what is causing a better than 60 percent diabetes situation for a number of tribes.

Even transportation needs are there because of many of the problems that are in rural areas.

So I just wanted to say when you talk about the Native American population in this country, the disparities problem is so great that it has actually gotten to the point of crisis, in my opinion; and that is why we need legislation to deal with these disparity issues, and we need to reauthorize the Indian Health Service through the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

And to the extent that we are looking at this from the Asian population, the Latino population, or whatever population, this type of initiative is very important. I just want to commend my colleagues again for being here tonight and speaking out because I do think we need to speak out. In many cases we are talking about people who don't have people to speak out for them other than a few of us. Thank you again.

Ms. SOLIS. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his kind words and knowledge and always helping Members to better organize their messages, particularly when it comes to health care and the need to improve access for all people in our great country.

As the gentleman says, the fact is that we are undergoing a change where our populations are exploding, our minority populations have increased, and we don't see more services provided, one of which is the Native American population. I have a significant Native American population in L.A. County and there is one center available for them. It is just horrifying to think that people have to travel so many counties just to get there. Lord help them if they have an episode of some sort, that they get there in time to receive the necessary care. To know that this is not a priority with the administration is very alarming. We need to prioritize this issue.

□ 2145

I again want to recognize my colleague from Guam to talk about some other very pressing health care issues that affect not just Asian Pacific Islanders but these other minority populations. So I would yield to her.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) for organizing this forum, and I would also like to thank my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) who joined us on the floor tonight to discuss this very important issue.

I am to cover cancer, and today is a very sad day for the House of Representatives. We have lost a dear colleague to cancer, and this is the second cancer-related passing this year in the House of Representatives.

Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the United States and

accounts for one out of every four deaths. Unfortunately, health disparities in cancer continue to persist. Minority groups face unique problems and concerns about cancer, including higher rates of developing some cancers and barriers to early detection.

In 2001, the National Cancer Institute formed the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities. In 2005, the center launched a new program to reduce cancer deaths among minority and underserved populations through \$95 million in grants that funded community-based projects in geographically and culturally diverse areas of our country.

Dr. Harold Freeman, a leader in reducing cancer health disparities, and former surgeon at Harlem Hospital, said that cancer disparities are attributable to three interacting factors: first, low socioeconomic status; second, culture; and third, social injustice.

Low socioeconomic status and lack of health insurance lead to disparities. Lack of coverage prevents many Americans from receiving optimal health care. Frequently, people are not getting screened and treated because they feel they cannot afford to pay for a test if they are uninsured. The same populations also express concern that if they are diagnosed with cancer they will not be able to get the care they need.

Culture also plays a role. Some Native American tribes do not use the word "cancer." When asked why they cannot discuss this disease, they say that in their culture, if they say the word "cancer," it will bring disease to all of their families.

It is necessary to understand the cultural beliefs of different populations when talking about diseases. According to Dr. Freeman, much of the disparity in cancer outcomes is a result of the cancer type, the time of diagnosis, and the continuity of cancer care, not the disease itself.

Screening and early detection are extremely important to avoiding cancer-related deaths. Many deaths from breast, colon and cervical cancer could be prevented by increased usage of established screening tests.

Although white and African American women aged 40 and older had the same prevalence of mammography use, other racial and ethnic groups of women were less likely to have had a mammogram. The lowest prevalence of mammography use occurred among women who lacked health insurance and by immigrant women who lived in the United States for less than 10 years.

The incidence of some cancers is much higher in communities of color. For example, African American men are at least 50 percent more likely to develop prostate cancer than men of any other racial or ethnic group in the United States.

Latino males have the third highest incidence rate for prostate cancer after African Americans and whites. Death rates for Latino males reveal that they

have the third highest death rates from prostate and colon and rectal cancer after African Americans and whites.

Asian Pacific Islander males have the third highest rate for lung and bronchus cancer and colon and rectal cancer.

Cervical cancer occurs most often in Latinas; the incidence rate is more than twice the rate for non-Latina white women. Among Latinas in the United States, cervical cancer ranks as the fourth most common type of cancer.

Although African American women are less likely to develop breast cancer than other women, those who do are about twice as likely to die from it.

Consequently, programs such as the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program are essential for low-income, uninsured and underserved women.

Although breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for Latina women, cancer screening rates are lower for Latinas.

Providing culturally appropriate health education and health services is so essential to preventing and treating cancer.

Again, I want to thank Congresswoman SOLIS for providing and organizing this forum.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for joining us this evening and representing the caucus so well, the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus, and demonstrating a willingness to work across the aisle and in a coalition so that we can better improve access to health care for all underrepresented groups.

I want to talk very briefly before I recognize one of our other colleagues who has joined us here from the Congressional Black Caucus, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

I want to talk about diabetes because diabetes, in my opinion, is one of the major chronic illnesses. It does not just affect ethnic minority or underrepresented groups, but many, many people in our country.

One of the goals that I mentioned earlier of the Healthy People 2010 program, a campaign underway, by the way, by the Department of Health and Human Services, is to reduce the disease and economic burden of diabetes and to improve the quality of life for all people who have or are at risk of getting diabetes.

Diabetes, as you know, is a chronic disease affecting both children, Type I, and adults, Type II. The number of people with diabetes has increased steadily in the past decade, and the increase has occurred within certain racial and ethnic groups.

Today, approximately 20.8 million Americans have diabetes, and of these people, an estimated 6.2 million individuals have not even been diagnosed. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, another 54 million people have pre-diabetes.

Complications of diabetes include heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney

failure, dental disease, pregnancy complications and amputations. These are very serious illnesses, and diabetes is now the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and costs the Nation over \$132 billion per year in direct and indirect costs.

Diabetes, as you know, is the leading cause of nontraumatic amputations, and about 150 amputations per day are due to diabetes.

Two million Latinos have been diagnosed with diabetes, and Latinos are 1.5 times more likely to have diabetes than whites, on the average, and many children with Type II diabetes are Latino or African American.

Reducing the incidence of diabetes and thus reducing racial and ethnic disparities involves diet and lifestyle changes. However, strategies to manage the disease and prevent the disease also need to be culturally sensitive and targeted to specific populations.

The number of overweight minority children has increased in recent years, and more of them are being diagnosed with adult-type diabetes. It is estimated that now at least 40,000 children now have Type II diabetes, which is the type of diabetes associated with adult obesity.

Regular diets of low-cost, high-calorie fast food and sodas, in addition to inadequate daily physical activity, have contributed to the prevalence of diabetes. Health education, as you know, is extremely important, and we need to teach people how to prevent diabetes because it is preventable. For people who already have diabetes, we need to teach them how to manage that disease.

In order to prevent or delay complications and early death from diabetes, patients need to understand the disease, take charge of blood glucose management, comfortably talk to their provider about diabetes care, and have access to equipment, supplies and prescriptions. Cultural competence and access to health care play a very large role in preventing deaths due to diabetes.

Sixty percent of my district, as you know, is Latino, and I have seen firsthand the community clinics that have helped my constituents who are diagnosed with this deadly but preventable disease. A large proportion of the people who visit these clinics in my district are uninsured. When I see the packed waiting rooms, I understand how hard it is to manage this chronic illness. Even with appointments, people can have waiting times of several hours, resulting in loss of work.

A 2005 Commonwealth Fund study of public hospitals also found that African American and Latino patients were less likely than their white counterparts to have well-controlled diabetes, and uninsured patients received even less care. Public hospitals serve a high number of patients at high risk for not receiving access to needed health care. In the study, about two out of five patients with diabetes were uninsured,

and two-thirds were members of racial and ethnic minority groups, and up to two-thirds of patients primarily spoke a language other than English.

Insurance status and race influences health care use and outcomes for diabetes patients. Uninsured patients have the worst diabetes control, and 33 percent do not have their condition under control now, which is almost double the rate for Medicare patients.

The routine costs for managing diabetes, to test and control glucose levels, can reach hundreds of dollars per month. Uninsured patients have difficulties paying for equipment to effectively manage their treatment. Consequently, the higher prevalence of diabetes and the inability to manage diabetes leads to more diabetes-related deaths in communities of color.

This is just one example of how social determinants impact our health care status, and I wanted to draw your attention to that.

This evening we have been joined by two members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I would first like to recognize the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE). Thank you for joining us this evening.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from California for convening us this evening and providing such leadership to the issue of health disparities. And also I believe it is enormously important to emphasize the collaborative work between the Asian Pacific Caucus, of which I am a member, the Hispanic Caucus, of which I am an adopted daughter, and the Congressional Black Caucus.

I am also very pleased to be on the floor with our chair of the Congressional Black Caucus health brain trust, which I have been a Member on, I believe, for as long as I can remember, to join us for what is really an indictment of American society. It is an indictment of this government, frankly, and the correction that is due is long overdue. That is the whole question of health disparities.

We have heard an eloquent presentation by HILDA SOLIS on the question of diabetes. We heard from the distinguished gentlewoman from Guam who spoke about the Pacific illnesses that impact the Asian Pacific community, and I rise to speak holistically about the health crisis in America that does not address the longstanding question of disparities in health care.

I am reminded of an African American gentleman in a Florida hospital just a few years ago who was to go into surgery and hopefully had all the T's crossed and I's dotted. Lo and behold, the wrong leg was amputated. He obviously suffered from, as we call in our community, sugar diabetes, and rather than be cured, unfortunately, his situation was made worse by amputating the wrong leg.

There is extensive documentation that indicates that the question of health access or access to health care

falls heavily on minorities, and particularly African Americans. In fact, there is data to suggest that African Americans, when given access to the Nation's hospitals and other health facilities, that the care is less than it is for other populations. That, in itself, does not speak to the greatness of this Nation and the fact that this Nation is considered a world power.

□ 2200

If you want to speak to inequities of language, you will find in Hispanic communities, in particular, that before we started moving on community health clinics and really making a push to have culturally sensitive treatment, you will find in many instances that there was a lack of ability to communicate with Hispanic populations because of the language barrier. These, my friends, were citizens, people who were permanent legal residents, who could not get the proper health care.

Today, I rise to acknowledge the importance of National Minority Health Month, but really to give us a challenge that we maybe have come this far by faith, as many of us have been known to say, but we have a mighty long way.

Let me just share some of the indictments of poor health care in America. African American adolescents accounted for 65 percent of new AIDS cases reported among teens in 2002, although they only account for 15 percent of American teenagers.

We also recognize that the leading cause of death of young African American males between the ages of 15 and 24, that cause is not disease or accidental death, but homicide.

We recognize, as has been already noted, that obesity is an increasing dilemma for America. It certainly is a dilemma for minority populations and African Americans.

Let me express appreciation for joining Congressman DONALD PAYNE a few weeks ago for a very exciting conference on obesity, so much so that it was contagious. Those of us, as Members of Congress who were able to attend, with the University of New Jersey medical and dental school, are going to repeat that conference around the country. I know that we in Houston look forward to hosting a conference on obesity.

A few weeks ago, the Congressional Children's Caucus hosted, with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, a briefing on obesity, where we focused on what happens to obese children and obese infants as well.

Just a couple of days ago, I believe Friday, I was very gratified to participate with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and the CBC Health Brain Trust on the status of African American men, questions of mental health, the question of homicide, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, abuse, and the preservation of the good health of African American men.

Every time I rise to speak about this question, I pay tribute to my father,

my late father, a man who worked hard for his family, who believed that no job was beneath him to support his family, a man who was a brilliant artist. But because of segregation, the work that he had, he was, if you will, replaced when men came back who happened to be white, from World War II.

But even with all of those trials and tribulations, he kept his hand involved in art, and in the later part of his life, he got another chance to work 10 years for one of the comic book companies in New York. Who would have thought that he would have been a victim of prostate cancer. When I say a victim, not diagnosed, so much so that ultimately it metastasized to his lung and his brain. My most visual memory of him was him laying in a fetal position in a hospital bed, way before the time, and he died of that dastardly disease.

But I think one of the challenges was that in the male line of our family, that cancer is prevalent, but not being diagnosed, or having access to health care that would inform us, we saw uncles pass without really knowing what they were dying of.

So today, now, 2007, a tribute to my father, Ezra Jackson, and relatives across America who have died undiagnosed, whose families were not aware of, maybe, the DNA or their characteristics for these diseases, because of the poor access to health care. We stand today, one, wanting a universal access to health care system; two, passing the Congressional Black Caucus and the bill that went to the Senate, dealing with disparities in health care, that, as I understand, Dr. CHRISTENSEN, we never got passed. We need to get it passed in this Congress.

Then I would just simply say that each of us must hold forums in our districts on the question of disparities in health care. As I do the obesity one, we look forward to putting together an advisory committee on black males that talks about health care as well.

Let me close by simply saying that I could recount for you any number of statistics on health care. I think my colleagues have accurately pronounced these challenges. But let me give a roll call to show you where we have these devastating, if you will, disparities, so that you won't think that we are limited, hypertension, high cholesterol, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, gall bladder disease, osteoarthritis, asthma, bronchitis, sleep apnea and other respiratory problems, cancer, which is breast, colon and endometrial.

We expect that we will do a better job of trying, if you will, of trying to improve the health conditions in America. We must do so. It is a civil rights issue. I want to thank you so much for highlighting and provoking us to be part of the change of creating opportunities for better health for all Americans, and particularly those experiencing these health disparities.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize the importance of National Minority Health

Month. National Minority Health Month is a very important time to bring awareness to the many health concerns facing minority communities. My colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and I understand the very difficult challenges facing us in the form of huge health disparities among our community and other minority communities. We will continue to seek solutions to those challenges. It is imperative for us to improve the prospects for living long and healthy lives and fostering an ethic of wellness in African-American and other minority communities. I wish to pay special tribute to my colleague, Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN, the Chair of the CBC Health Braintrust, for organizing an important conference last week on the health and wellness of African-American males. I thank all of my CBC colleagues who been toiling in the vineyards for years developing effective public policies and securing the resources needed to eradicate racial and gender disparities in health and wellness.

Let me focus these brief remarks on what I believe are three of the greatest impediments to the health and wellness of the African-American community and other minority communities. The first challenge is combating the scourge of HIV/AIDS. Second, we must reverse the dangerous trend of increasing obesity in juveniles and young adults. Finally, we must confront the leading cause of death of young African-American males between the ages of 15–24; that cause is not disease or accidental death, but homicide.

#### HIV/AIDS

In 1981, HIV/AIDS was thought by most Americans to be a new, exotic, and mysterious disease which seemed to inflict primarily gay white males in New York City and San Francisco. But since then we have learned that in the America of 2006, AIDS is overwhelmingly a black and brown disease. And that means that we have to assume the major responsibility for finding the solutions to rid our communities of this scourge. Consider the magnitude of the challenge confronting us:

HIV/AIDS is now the leading cause of death among African-Americans ages 25 to 44—ahead of heart disease, accidents, cancer, and homicide.

The rate of AIDS diagnoses for African-Americans in 2003 was almost 10 times the rate for whites.

Between 2000 and 2003, the rate of HIV/AIDS among African-American males was seven times the rate for white males and three times the rate for Hispanic males.

African-American adolescents accounted for 65 percent of new AIDS cases reported among teens in 2002, although they only account for 15 percent of American teenagers.

Billions and billions of private and federal dollars have been poured into drug research and development to treat and “manage” infections, but the complex life cycle and high mutation rates of HIV strains have only marginally reduced the threat of HIV/AIDS to global public health.

Although the drugs we currently have are effective in managing infections and reducing mortality by slowing the progression to AIDS in an individual, they do little to reduce disease prevalence and prevent new infections. It simply will not suffice to rely upon drugs to manage infection. We can make and market drugs until we have 42 million individually tailored treatments, but so long as a quarter of

those infected remain detached from the importance of testing, we have no chance of ending or even “managing” the pandemic.

Currently, the only cure we have for HIV/AIDS is prevention. While we must continue efforts to develop advanced treatment options, it is crucial that those efforts are accompanied by dramatic increases in public health education and prevention measures.

Learning whether one is infected with HIV before the virus has already damaged the immune system represents perhaps the greatest opportunity for preventing and treating HIV infection. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), between 2000 and 2003, 56 percent of late testers—defined as those who were diagnosed with full-blown AIDS within one year after learning they were HIV-positive—were African-Americans, primarily African-American males.

African-Americans males with HIV have tended to delay being tested because of psychological or social reasons, which means they frequently are diagnosed with full-blown AIDS soon after learning they are infected with HIV. This is the main reason African American males with AIDS do not live as long as persons with HIV/AIDS from other racial/ethnic groups.

Researchers have identified two unequal tracks of HIV treatment and care in the United States. In the first, or “ideal track,” a person discovers she or he is HIV-infected, seeks medical care, has regular follow-ups, and follows a regimen without complications. Persons in this track can now in most cases lead a normal life.

But some individuals follow a second, more-dangerous track. These individuals come to the hospital with full-blown AIDS as their initial diagnosis. They may have limited access to care because of finances or because other social or medical problems interfere. The vast majority of deaths from HIV/AIDS are among this second group. And the persons making up this group are disproportionately African-American males.

I have strongly supported legislation sponsored by CBC members and others to give increased attention and resources to combating HIV/AIDS, including the Ryan White CARE Act. I support legislation to reauthorize funding for community health centers (H.R. 5573, Health Centers Renewal Act of 2006), including the Montrose and Fourth Ward clinics in my home city of Houston, and to provide more nurses for the poor urban communities in which many of these centers are located (H.R. 1285, Nursing Relief Act for Disadvantaged Areas). I have also authored legislation aimed to better educate our children (H.R. 2553, Responsible Education About Life Act in 2006) and eliminate health disparities (H.R. 3561, Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act and the Good Medicine Cultural Competency Act in 2003, H.R. 90).

Twenty-five years from now, I hope that we will not be discussing data on prevalence and mortality of HIV/AIDS among African-American males, but rather how our sustained efforts at elimination have come into fruition. But for us to have that discussion, we must take a number of actions now. We must continue research on treatments and antiretroviral therapies, as well as pursue a cure. We absolutely have to ensure that everyone who needs treatment receives it. And we simply must increase awareness of testing, access to testing, and the accuracy of testing. Because we

will never be able to stop this pandemic if we lack the ability to track it.

African-Americans males are eleven times as likely to be infected with HIV/AIDS, so we must make eleven times the effort to educate them until HIV/AIDS becomes a memory. If we do not, then the African-American male will indeed become an endangered species.

When it comes to the scourge of HIV/AIDS, the African-American community is at war. It is a war we absolutely have to win because at stake is our very survival. With HIV/AIDS we need not wonder whether the enemy will follow us. The enemy is here now. But so is the army that can vanquish the foe. It is us. It is up to us. For if not us, who? If not now, when? If we summon the faith of our ancestors, the courage of our great grandparents, and the determination of our parents, we will march on until victory is won.

#### OBESITY

Although the obesity rates among all African-Americans are alarming, as Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am especially concerned about the childhood obesity epidemic among African-American youth. More than 40 percent of African-American teenagers are overweight, and nearly 25 percent are obese.

Earlier this year, my office in concert with the office of Congressman TOWNS and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, held a widely-attended issue forum entitled, "Childhood Obesity: Factors Contributing to Its Disproportionate Prevalence in Low Income Communities." At this forum, a panel of professionals from the fields of medicine, academia, nutrition, and the food industry discussed the disturbing increasing rates of childhood obesity in minority and low-income communities, and the factors that are contributing to the prevalence in these communities.

What we know is that African-American youth are consuming less nutritious foods such as fruits and vegetables and are not getting enough physical exercise. This combination has led to an epidemic of obesity, which directly contributes to numerous deadly or life-threatening diseases or conditions, including the following: hypertension; dyslipidemia (high cholesterol or high triglyceride levels); Type 2 diabetes; coronary heart disease; stroke; gallbladder disease; osteoarthritis; asthma, bronchitis, sleep apnea, and other respiratory problems; and cancer (breast, colon, and endometrial).

When ethnicity and income are considered, the picture is even more troubling. African-American youngsters from low-income families have a higher risk for obesity than those from higher-income families. Since the mid-1970s, the prevalence of overweight and obesity has increased sharply for both adults and children. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), among African-American male adults aged 20–74 years the prevalence of obesity increased from 15.0 percent in 1980 survey to 32.9 percent in the 2004.

There were also increases in overweight among children and teens. For children aged 2–5 years, the prevalence of overweight increased from 5.0 percent to 13.9 percent; for those aged 6–11 years, prevalence increased from 6.5 percent to 18.8 percent; and for those aged 12–19 years, prevalence increased from 5.0 percent to 17.4 percent.

As the debate over how to address the rising childhood obesity epidemic continues, it is

especially important to explore how attitudes, environmental factors, and public policies influence contribute to obesity among African-American males. Some of these contributing factors are environmental, others are cultural, still others are economic, and others still may be lack of education or information. But one thing is clear: we must find ways to remove them.

#### GUN VIOLENCE AND HOMICIDE

The third and final health challenge confronting the African-American community, and African-American males in particular, involves the issue of gun violence and homicide. This must be a priority health issue for our community. Over 600,000 Americans are victimized in handgun crimes each year, and the African-American community is among the hardest hit.

One week ago, on Monday, April 16, 2007, at Virginia Tech University, one of the nation's great land grant colleges, we witnessed senseless acts of violence on a scale unprecedented in our history. Neither the mind nor the heart can contemplate a cause that could lead a human being to inflict such injury and destruction on fellow human beings. The loss of life and innocence at Virginia Tech is a tragedy over which all Americans mourn and the thoughts and prayers of people of goodwill everywhere go out to the victims and their families. In the face of such overwhelming grief, I hope they can take comfort in the certain knowledge that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Thirty-three persons died in the massacre at Virginia Tech. But there is a much less noticed, though no less devastating, massacre and loss of life going on in African-American communities across the country. Since 1978, on average, 33 young black males between the ages of 15 and 24 are murdered every 6 days. Three-quarters of these victims are killed by firearms.

In 1997, firearm homicide was the number one cause of death for African-American men ages 15–34, as well as the leading cause of death for all African-Americans 15–24 years old. The firearm death rate for African-Americans was 2.6 times that of whites. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the firearms suicide rate amongst African-American youths aged 10–19 more than doubled over a 15 year period. Although African-Americans have had a historically lower rate of suicide than whites, the rate for African-Americans 15–19 has reached that of white youths aged 15–19.

A young African-American male is 10 times more likely to be murdered than a young white male. The homicide rate among African-American men aged 15 to 24 rose by 66 percent from 1984 to 1987, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Ninety-five percent of this increase was due to firearm-related murders. For African-American males, aged 15 to 19, firearm homicides have increased 158 percent from 1985 to 1993. In 1998, 94 percent of the African-American murder victims were slain by African-American offenders.

In 1997, African-American males accounted for 45 percent of all homicide victims, while they only account for 6 percent of the entire population. It is scandalous that a 15-year-old urban African-American male faces a probability of being murdered before reaching his 45th birthday that ranges from almost 8.5 percent in the District of Columbia to less than 2 percent in Brooklyn. By comparison, the prob-

ability of being murdered by age 45 is a mere three-tenths of 1 percent for all white males.

Firearms have become the predominant method of suicide for African-Americans aged 10–19 years, accounting for over 66 percent of suicides. In Florida, for example, African-American males have an almost eight times greater chance of dying in a firearm-related homicide than white males. In addition, the firearm-related homicide death rate for African-American females is greater than white males and over four times greater than white females.

As the tragedy this week at Virginia Tech University revealed, school shootings are sobering and tragic events that cause much concern for the safety of children. Homicides involving children and youth that are school related make up one percent of the total number of child and youth homicides in the United States. Most school associated violent deaths occur during transition times such as the start or end of the school day, during the lunch period, or the start of a semester.

Nearly 50 percent of all homicide perpetrators give some type of prior warning signal such as a threat or suicide note. Among the students who commit a school-associated homicide, 20 percent were known to have been victims of bullying and 12 percent were known to have expressed suicidal thoughts or engage in suicidal behavior.

My legislative agenda during the 110th Congress includes introducing legislation to assist local governments and school administrators in devising preventive measures to reduce school-associated violent deaths. In devising such preventive measures, at a minimum, we must focus on:

Encouraging efforts to reduce crowding, increase supervision, and institute plans/policies to handle disputes during transition times that may reduce the likelihood of potential conflicts and injuries.

Taking threats seriously and letting students know who and where to go when they learn of a threat to anyone at the school and encouraging parents, educators, and mentors to take an active role in helping troubled children and teens.

Taking talk of suicide seriously and identifying risk factors for suicidal behavior when trying to prevent violence toward self and others.

Developing prevention programs designed to help teachers and other school staff recognize and respond to incidences of bullying between students.

Ensuring that each school has a security plan and that it is being enforced and that school staff are trained and prepared to implement and execute the plan.

My legislative agenda during the 110th Congress also includes introducing sensible legislation to assist law enforcement departments, social service agencies, and school officials detect and deter gun violence.

Again, thank you all for your commitment to working to find workable solutions to the health and wellness challenges facing our communities. I look forward to working with you in the months ahead to achieve our mutual goals.

Have a successful and inspiring conference.

Ms. SOLIS. I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for joining us this evening.

Before I conclude with our discussion on the uninsured and celebrating, actually, a call to action, a call to action

for all people of color and all Americans, that we have a balanced health care system that serves all of us, one last item I would like to bring up, before I recognize the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands for the last 5 minutes is to talk a little bit about one of the biggest killers in our community, and it is about tobacco. Each year tobacco use kills more than 400,000 Americans and costs our country more than \$96 billion in health care costs.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tobacco use by pregnant women alone costs at least \$400 million per year due to complications such as low birth weight, premature birth and sudden infant death syndrome. Every day, 1,000 kids become regular smokers, one-third of whom will die prematurely as a result. Smoking is responsible for 87 percent of lung cancer deaths in the U.S.

Tobacco-related cancers are disproportionately higher among low-income and ethnic-minority communities. Because these groups have been repeatedly targeted by the tobacco industry, they unfairly carry a greater weight of the health and economic burden tobacco has in our country. For communities of color, tobacco addiction brings a disproportionate amount of death and disease to communities with low rates of health insurance coverage. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer among Latino men and second leading cause of death among Latinas.

Approximately 25,000 Latinos will die from smoking-related illnesses this year, surpassing all other causes of cancer. Each year, approximately 45,000 African Americans die from smoking-caused illness.

Native American adults have the highest tobacco use rates for all major ethnic groups. The prevalence of smoking is 37.5 percent among Native American, 26.7 among African American, and 24 percent among white men. This year it is expected that the rate of lung and cancer deaths for white males will be 73.8 per 100,000, while for African Americans it will be 98.4 per 100,000. Tobacco use is an important risk factor for coronary heart disease, the leading cause of death among Latinos.

Unfortunately, tobacco companies have increased their marketing to our minority communities, and I have seen advertisements in magazines popular with Latino youth. R.J. Reynolds is running ads for Kool cigarettes with images that appeal to Latinos.

I recently learned that the Kool Mixx campaign focused its marketing images around music and hip-hop, which appeals to African American and Latino youth. The Kool Mixx campaign included 14 music concerts around the country and a DJ competition, as well as a special theme park with cartons displayed on them.

In addition, the tobacco company placed advertisements in publications popular with Latino youth, like this one here, including "Latina" and "Cos-

mopolitan en Espanol." The ads include slogans like: "It's about pursuing your ambitions and staying connected to your roots." To reach everybody in our community, they not only use attractive Latino models, but they also make sure ads are in English and Spanish.

The cigarette companies have focused on African American populations as well. One company created a line of cigarette flavors like Caribbean Chill and Mocha Taboo and used images of African Americans to promote their cigarettes. This targeted marketing is having an impact on the rates that we are seeing, higher number of people smoking. In 2005, 22 percent of Latino high school students smoked, a 19 percent increase over 2003, when the smoking rate was down to 18 percent.

Smoking continues to be a huge public health risk for us, and we must not tolerate it in our communities. We have to stand up to these big corporations and say, enough advertising, let's speak the truth, let's talk about prevention, let's talk about awareness, let's talk about alternative lifestyles so we can have healthier communities.

I am pleased that we were able to entertain this discussion on the uninsured, the celebration of Uninsured Week and to talk about the disparities that exist in our communities and communities of color.

I am pleased to give the remainder of my time to the distinguished woman from the Virgin Islands, who is chairperson of the task force for the Black Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus.

□ 2210

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor to speak on another issue, but let me say a few words about health disparities before I do.

Health disparities is one of the remaining issues and causes of our civil rights struggle. And because our country does not recognize health care as a right, African Americans, Latino Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan natives, and other people of color, poor and rural people, do not receive the same kind of health care, prevention, or health maintenance. And because of that, you will find that in this country more than half of the uninsured are people of color.

We have two times more diabetes than the white population, and all people of color suffer from more complications.

African Americans have higher rates of death from heart disease and several cancers, prostate, colon, lung, and breast. We are over 50 percent of all new HIV cases and over 50 percent of new AIDS cases. African American and Latino women are 70 to 80 percent of all AIDS cases among women. Hypertension we find is becoming a worldwide epidemic, and African American women are the most impacted by hypertension; however, more African American men die from hypertension.

Our infant mortality is twice as much as our white counterparts, and the New York Times yesterday reported that it is growing in the southeast region of our country. So we really have an obligation in this Congress to address the health care disparities and the health disparities and the lack of coverage in this country to ensure that health care is provided equally to every American.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a woman who was a champion of health for minorities and other people of color. The extremely sad news of Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD's death came as a shock to all of us, and it is with a deep sense of loss that I join my colleagues who were here earlier in mourning her passing. Not only have I lost a colleague, but also a mentor, a sister, and a friend.

I am honored to work alongside Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD as members of the Congressional Black Caucus together, and the Small Business Community. JUANITA was a true champion for minority and women-owned small businesses, and played a pivotal role in proposing and passing legislation to expand financing and contracting opportunities for our Nation's small businesses. Her dedication to helping women-owned businesses was evident in her dedication to increasing funding to expand women's business centers throughout our Nation.

Her commitment to improving the lives of minorities is reflected in her lifelong work in affiliations with organizations such as the NAACP, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and a number of other organizations devoted to the advancement of minorities. She will also be remembered for her outstanding stewardship in the areas of transportation, education, health, and FEMA legislation.

We are grateful for the leadership and the innovation that she brought to the Committee on House Administration, which led to her historic achievement as the first African American woman to chair a committee in Congress.

I know that the House staff and all of the Members appreciate her role in establishing the House Fitness Center and creating an outlet for mental and physical activity. She has truly left a legacy for all of us through her distinguished service on this important committee.

JUANITA will also be remembered for her passion for education, which was evident in her many eloquent speeches on the floor. She was truly a gifted and skilled orator. JUANITA had the distinct ability to captivate and engage her audiences. Although she possessed strong and determined qualities, she personified grace, compassion, and beauty both inside and out.

On a more personal note, it was through JUANITA, a minister's daughter, that I began attending Thursday morning prayer breakfast when I first

came to Congress. Her godliness was seen in all that she did.

JUANITA championed the cause of AIDS long before it was fashionable to do so. Every year she held a race in her district. And while I could never get away to attend, she always had all of our support, and we never missed a t-shirt or any of the other paraphernalia that she gave out each year.

JUANITA always spoke of her district with great affection and dedication. She frequently remarked that she had the most diverse district in the country, that she was able to bring them together. And to be reelected over and over is a testament to her leadership and her abiding belief that we are all children of God, equal in His sight and made in His image. Her mission was one of justice, fairness, and opportunity for all.

One cannot speak of JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD without remarking on her exquisite taste and her unequaled sense of style. She was always dressed to the nines and was always the epitome of elegance and grace.

Mr. Speaker, although her passing leaves a void in the halls of Congress, her spirit and legacy will forever be with us. Words are not enough to express our profound sorrow. On behalf of my family, staff, and the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, my deepest sympathy goes out to her husband, James McDonald, their children, grandchildren, extended family, and dedicated staff. May God bless and comfort them at this time in grief as we know He is welcoming our sister home.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congresswoman HILDA SOLIS, the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Task Force on Health and the Environment, for organizing this evening's Special Order in honor of National Minority Health Month.

Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." Unfortunately, injustice in health care is widespread and growing in American society today.

#### THE UNINSURED

Over 46 million Americans don't have health insurance.

That is a 15 percent increase in the number of uninsured since the President took office.

Twelve percent of white Americans, 19 percent of Asian Americans, 20 percent of African Americans, 27 percent of Native Americans and 35 percent of Hispanic Americans have no health insurance.

Nationwide, 9 percent of children under the age of 18 and 19 percent of adults ages 18 to 64 are uninsured.

#### LOS ANGELES COUNTY

In Los Angeles County, 8 percent of children under the age of 18 and 22 percent of adults ages 18 to 64 are uninsured.

In the Southern Service Planning Area of Los Angeles County [SPA6], where my district is located, lack of access to health insurance is especially high: 11 percent of children under the age of 18 and 32 percent of adults ages 18 to 64 are uninsured.

In the same area, an alarming 44 percent of adults reported difficulty accessing medical

care, and 21 percent of children have difficulty accessing medical care.

Furthermore, in the Southern Area of Los Angeles County, 35 percent of adults and 19 percent of children did not obtain dental care in the past year, because they could not afford it.

We cannot continue to ignore these alarming statistics.

#### INFANT MORTALITY

Infant mortality rates are considered to be one of the most important indicators of the health and well-being of a population. In 2003, the last year for which nationwide data is available, the infant death rate was 6.9 deaths for every one thousand live births.

Infant death rates among African Americans are considerably higher. Among whites, there were 5.7 infant deaths per thousand live births in 2003; while among blacks, there were 14.0 infant deaths per thousand live births.

In Los Angeles County, there are 5.0 infant deaths per thousand live births. Among African Americans, there are 11.7 infant deaths per thousand live births.

According to an article in Sunday's New York Times, infant deaths in the South are growing.

In Mississippi, the infant death rate had fallen to 9.7 in 2004 but then jumped sharply to 11.4 in 2005. In concrete human terms, a total of 481 babies died in Mississippi in 2005. That's 65 more babies than died the previous year.

Among African Americans in Mississippi, infant deaths rose from 14.2 per thousand in 2004 to an astonishing 17 per thousand in 2005.

Infant death rates also increased in 2005 in Alabama, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

Clearly, injustice in health care is taking its toll.

If we truly believe that all men and women are created equal, we cannot allow these disparities to continue.

#### HIV/AIDS

Racial and ethnic minorities have disproportionately high rates of HIV and AIDS in the United States.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, racial and ethnic minorities represent 71 percent of new AIDS cases and 64 percent of Americans living with AIDS.

African Americans account for half of new AIDS cases, although only 12 percent of the population is black.

Hispanics account for 19 percent of new AIDS cases, although only 14 percent of the population is Hispanic.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders account for 1 percent of new AIDS cases, and American Indians and Alaska Natives account for up to 1 percent.

Racial minorities now represent a majority of new AIDS cases, a majority of Americans living with AIDS, and a majority of deaths among persons with AIDS.

It was because of the severe impact of HIV and AIDS on minorities that I developed the Minority AIDS Initiative back in 1998. The Minority AIDS Initiative provides grants to community-based organizations and other health care providers for HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs serving African American, Hispanic, Asian American and Native American communities.

Unfortunately, the Republicans in Congress cut the funding for the Minority AIDS Initiative

from its maximum level of \$411 million in fiscal year 2003 to under \$400 million today. Meanwhile, the need for the initiative has continued to grow as the disease has continued to spread.

This year, I am calling for an appropriation of \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative in fiscal year 2008. So far, a total of 62 Members of Congress have agreed to sign a letter in support of this level of funding. I am hoping to convince additional Members to support the expansion of the initiative before this week is over.

#### DIABETES

Diabetes is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and it has a particularly severe impact on minorities.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 9.5 percent of Hispanic Americans, 12.8 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives, and 13.3 percent of African Americans over the age of 20 have diabetes. Many Asian Americans are also at high risk.

Diabetes can lead to serious and sometimes deadly complications, including high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney disease, and nerve damage.

Too often, some of these complications result in lower-limb amputations.

Minorities with diabetes often lack access to proper health care and are more likely to suffer from complications.

Because of these disparities, I introduced H.R. 1031, the Minority Diabetes Initiative Act.

This bill would establish an initiative to provide grants to physicians, community-based organizations, and other health care providers for diabetes prevention, care, and treatment programs in minority communities.

The Minority Diabetes Initiative is based on the successful model of the Minority AIDS Initiative.

This bill would help to reduce diabetes disparities and improve the ability of minorities with diabetes to live healthy and productive lives.

The bill has 40 cosponsors, representing both political parties.

#### CANCER

Health disparities also affect minorities who suffer from cancer.

Blacks have a cancer death rate that is about 35 percent higher than whites.

The mortality rates for blacks with breast, colon, prostate and lung cancer are much higher than those for any other racial group.

Black and Hispanic women are less likely to receive breast cancer screening with mammograms than white women.

Black and Hispanic men are more likely to be diagnosed with more advanced forms of prostate cancer than white men.

The incidence of prostate cancer is approximately 60 percent higher among African-American men than white men, and the death rate from prostate cancer is 2.4 times higher in African-American men than white men. This is the largest racial disparity for any type of cancer.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 1030, the Cancer Testing, Education, Screening and Treatment (Cancer TEST) Act. This bill would provide grants for cancer screening, counseling, treatment and prevention programs for minorities and underserved populations.

The Cancer TEST Act would authorize grants for the development, expansion and operation of programs that provide public education on cancer prevention, cancer



screenings, patient counseling services and treatment for cancer.

Grants would be made available to community health centers and non-profit organizations that serve minority and underserved populations.

The Cancer TEST Act would emphasize early detection and provide comprehensive treatment services for cancer in its earliest stages, when treatment is most likely to save lives.

The bill has 29 cosponsors.

#### NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLISON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues on the Republican side for agreeing to let me reclaim the time. I will try to limit my time to less than 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to commemorate the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian genocide. As the first genocide of the 20th century, it is morally imperative that we remember this atrocity and collectively demand reaffirmation of this crime against humanity.

On April 24, 1915, 92 years ago tomorrow, that day marked the beginning of the systematic and deliberate campaign of genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire. Over the following 8 years, 1½ million Armenians were tortured and murdered, and more than one-half million were forced from their homeland into exile. These facts are indisputable, but to this day the U.S. Congress has never properly recognized the Armenian genocide.

The historical record, Mr. Speaker, on the Armenian genocide is unambiguous and well-documented with overwhelming evidence. The U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire at the time, Henry Morgenthau, protested the slaughter of the Armenians to the Ottoman leaders. In a cable to the U.S. State Department on July 16, 1915, Ambassador Morgenthau stated that, "A campaign of race extermination is in progress."

Mr. Speaker, if America is going to live up to the standards we set for ourselves, and continue to lead the world in affirming human rights everywhere, we need to finally stand up and recognize the tragic events that began in 1915 for what they were: the systematic elimination of a people.

Despite pleas by Members of Congress and the Armenian-American community and recognition by much of the international community, President Bush continues to avoid any clear references to the Armenian genocide, while consistently opposing legislation marking this crime against humanity. Instead, he has chosen to succumb to shameless threats by the Government of Turkey. I strongly believe that Turkey's policy of denying the Armenian

genocide gives warrant to those who perpetrate genocide everywhere, because denial is the last stage of genocide. If the cycle is to end, there must be accountability. And just as we would not permit denying the Holocaust, we cannot accept Turkey's falsification of the facts of 1915.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that in the last few months the Turkish Government has made every effort to try to prevent the Armenian genocide resolution from coming to the floor of the House of Representatives. But I just want to show why denial is such a bad thing in a sense. Last week, I came to the floor and I pointed out that when the U.N. wanted to do a project or an exhibit at the United Nations headquarters talking about the genocide in Rwanda, because the Turkish Government protested the inclusion of the Armenian genocide, the Rwandan genocide never took place. There again, if you deny one genocide, you end up denying or impacting the other.

And the fact of the matter is that when some of my colleagues say to me, "Well, why do you need to bring up something that occurred 92 years ago," I say, "Because by denying this, the Turkish Government continues to perpetrate genocide or oppression of its minorities."

Just a few weeks ago, there was something in the New York Times about how the Turkish Government continues to persecute the Kurdish minority. Many Kurds have been killed, driven from their homelands in the same way Armenians were. The Kurds happen to be a Muslim people, not a Christian people. That doesn't matter. The Turkish Government consistently oppresses minorities. They refuse also to open their borders with Armenia. They have actually had a blockade of Armenia in place for several years, which contributes to the economic instability of Armenia.

So this is something that must be done. It must be accomplished, that we recognize this genocide if it continues in various ways in Turkey today.

The second thing I would point out is that the Turkish Government has been basically hiring lobbyists for millions of dollars to go around and tell Members of Congress that if they pass the genocide resolution, there will be dire consequences: Turkey will not allow supplies to go to U.S. troops in Iraq.

□ 2220

They have actually taken to having Members of Congress called and told that their own soldiers in Iraq might be threatened if they pass the genocide resolution.

Well, again, this is the type of bullying that we, as a free government, should not allow because bullying is essentially the same thing that takes place when genocide takes place. Why should we give in to the threats of a country that tries to bully our country over such an important issue as the genocide?

Now, let me just mention, Mr. Speaker, to wrap up, that tomorrow evening at 6:30 the Armenian Caucus, which I cochair, will host an Armenian genocide commemoration event with the Armenian embassy, and I hope that many of the Members will attend this.

#### THE COUNTDOWN CREW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am coming to the floor this evening, as I have been for the past couple of months, to make sure that the American people realize what is going to happen in the next couple of years if we, in Congress don't act, if the Democratic majority doesn't act.

In 1,349 days, if we don't act, we are going to see the largest tax increase in American history. And this is coming about because the tax cuts, the tax reductions that we put in place as a Republican majority in 2001, 2003, extended some of those in 2005, they are going to expire. And the majority party doesn't have to act. All they have to do is run the clock out, and those tax increases will go into effect on the American people. The American family, small businesses, all around this country are going to feel the pain.

As I said, my friends and I have been, colleagues and I have been coming to the floor for the past few months talking about this, making sure that the American people are aware that this is going to occur.

And I have heard some folks on the other side of the aisle say that they are not going to vote for a tax increase, thus it is not really a tax increase. Only in Washington do we employ that type of rationale, that type of logic.

If we don't act, there is going to be a tax increase. And for the American people, who have just paid their taxes this year, and when they go to pay their taxes in 2008 and 2009 and 2010, they are going to see that their taxes have increased. Although there wasn't necessarily a vote on the House floor to specifically increase those taxes, those tax cuts expiring are, in effect, and, in fact, going to increase their taxes.

What kind of tax increase are we talking about? First of all, raising, from the 10 percent tax bracket to 15 percent. And more than 5 million individuals and families previously who owed no taxes will become subject to those individual income taxes in 2011, if we don't act on the House floor. If the Democratic majority doesn't act, the Democratic majority will be responsible for raising taxes on people in the lower-income levels in this country.

It will eliminate the marriage penalty relief that we put in place in the early 2000s. By 2011, 23 million taxpayers would see their taxes increase an average of \$466 just because they are married.

Cutting the child tax credit in half: if we don't extend those, if we don't vote on this House floor before 2011, 31 million taxpayers will see their taxes increase an average of \$859 in 2011.

The AMT tax, if we don't act, if we don't do something that rectifies that situation, we are going to see people across America that have, husband and wife that earn an income, two families, for instance, teachers, we are going to see a husband and wife that are both teachers in the coming years, if they already haven't been affected by it, they are going to be hit with the AMT and pay higher taxes if we don't act.

An elderly couple, for instance, in America, a senior couple making \$40,000 in income, this couple will, their tax bill would raise in 2011, from \$583 to \$1,489. And for a retired couple making \$40,000, that almost \$1,000 increase is a huge burden on them. We have got to make sure that that doesn't happen.

A family of four with an income of \$60,000: that family's income tax bill would raise, from \$3,030 to \$4,898, almost \$5,000 in 2011 if we don't act. And I know that families in my district, that is a typical family, a family of four, \$60,000 of income, two people working. That is a huge burden.

And for people across America, we have been calling ourselves the Countdown Crew, and we have an e-mail that we would like you to share your stories with us on what the tax cuts have done for you, and what, for instance, a family, again, of four, \$60,000 if you have to pay about \$1,800, almost \$1,900 more in income, \$2,000 more in taxes, how is that going to affect your family. So we would like for you to share those stories with us. You can e-mail us at the [countdowncrew@mail.house.gov](mailto:countdowncrew@mail.house.gov). I will get that up here in just a minute and you can see it. But, again, that is [countdowncrew@mail.house.gov](mailto:countdowncrew@mail.house.gov). And share those stories with us because we want to hear, we want to be able to have those stories to talk about how it is going to affect, as I said, a typical American household.

A single parent with two children, a woman who has got two children, \$30,000 in earnings, she would, that parent qualifies at present to get about \$2,400 back from the Federal Government. But if the tax cuts are allowed to expire, she is going to have to pay an \$800 tax. That is a \$3,200 swing from receiving \$2,400 from the Federal Government to having to pay almost \$800 in taxes. Families, individuals are going to be hardest hit, small businesses, unless we act.

Just to give you a brief rundown of the numbers on what is going to happen if the Democratic majority doesn't act and increases taxes, 115 million, taxpayers would see their taxes increase an average of \$1,795 in 2011.

Eighty-three million women would see their taxes raise an average of \$2,068 if the Democratic majority doesn't act.

Forty-eight million married couples will incur an average tax increase of al-

most \$2,900. Taxes would increase an average of \$2,181 for 42 million families with children. Twelve million single women with children would see their taxes increase an average of just over \$1,000. Seventeen million elderly individuals would incur average tax increases of \$2,270. And it goes on and on and on.

As I said, only in Washington, only in our Nation's Capital is the logic employed that says, if we don't vote on a tax increase, it is not really a tax increase. But I know and millions of Americans know that if they paid \$5,000 in taxes one year and they pay \$6,000 in another year, then that is an increase in taxes. So we need to make sure that we are honest and open with the American people and realize what these tax cuts have done.

This economy, which is growing, has grown each year for 21 straight quarters, I believe the last number was. We are creating jobs. We have created, in the last 4 years, 7.5 million jobs. Unemployment is at a 4.4 percent unemployment rate.

□ 2230

I have a county in my district that has a 2.8 percent unemployment rate. That is incredible, 2.8 percent. I was under the belief that full employment is when you have 97 percent of the people working, or close to 97 percent of the people, because you are always going to have folks transitioning and moving around; but I have got actually two counties that are under 3 percent. And as I said, this economy is growing because of those tax cuts.

It comes as no surprise to me, it should come as no surprise to millions of Americans, it should come as no surprise to my friends on the other side of the aisle, that when you cut taxes, the economy grows. When you cut taxes, also the revenues to the Federal Government increase.

And my friends on the other side of the aisle don't have to take my word for it. Go back to the 1960s when President John F. Kennedy cut taxes on the American people. And what happened? The economy grew and revenues grew coming into the Federal Government. In the 1980s Ronald Reagan cut taxes on the American people and American businesses and the economy grew and revenues grew coming into the Federal Government. And in 2000, once again history repeats itself. When you cut taxes, as we did, the Republican majority did, when you cut taxes, the economy grows, jobs are created, and we have seen record revenues coming into the Federal Government. In 2005 the revenues to the Federal Government grew by 14.5 percent, and last year, in 2006, they were over 11 percent growth in revenues to the Federal Government.

We have got to make sure that the American people are keeping more of their hard-earned dollars, not sending them to Washington, but that we are sending them back home. But in Wash-

ington we have to make sure that we are spending responsibly, and we are trying to balance the budget and we are working towards that and working in such a way that the budget is going to be balanced, and we have been working towards that in the last 4 or 5 years.

And I know that the Democratic majority, they talk about fiscal responsibility, but one of the first things they did was to change the rules of the House so that there was no longer a three-fifths majority needed to increase taxes. It is now a simple majority, and they can increase your taxes.

They have come out with a budget just last week, or 2 weeks ago, I guess, we passed a budget, and they make it seem like it is responsible, but a lot of things in that budget just don't add up. The PAYGO rule is something that, quite frankly, is difficult to understand. And I am privileged to have a colleague of mine on the House floor, a colleague of mine from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY), who is, first of all, on the Budget Committee, so he understands the complicated budgetary process that we face here in the Federal Government. But, more importantly, he is a CPA. He is a certified public accountant. So he understands the balance sheet, he understands the income statement, he understands not only that of a business, the government, but of the average American family and what it takes to balance a budget at home, in a business, and here in the Federal Government.

So with that, I would like to yield to my good friend from Texas to talk a little bit about the PAYGO rules and the budget and explain to the American people what is going to happen here in the next couple of months, weeks, and years in the United States.

With that I yield to Mr. CONAWAY.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for letting me join him tonight in this Special Order.

I want to talk first about PAYGO, and then I want to talk about something a little closer to home for Texans, and that is the way sales taxes are treated in the budget and under the current Tax Code.

For the entire time I have been here in Congress, which is a relatively short period of time, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have pounded away this idea, using the term "PAYGO." "Pay as you go" is the phrase, which rolls easily off the tongue but can have a multitude of definitions. And most of the folks in District 11 who hear the term "PAYGO," in other words, that you are going to pay for something as you go along, it really makes a lot of sense to them under a more traditional definition of that phrase.

This past week we had an interesting parliamentary ploy that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle used in order to get a vote on whether or not the delegate from Washington, DC would have voting privileges. And that

is, it was debated at length last week, and it did pass. But it had a fiscal limit attached to it. It cost money. And our colleagues across the aisle, particularly the Blue Dogs, had made a huge point over the last 2-plus years of not wanting to pass anything where any new spending wasn't offset with either, in their preference, tax increases, and the second least likely choice would be to reduce spending in other areas to in effect offset that so that any new spending would be paid for, as that phrase is used, with tax increases or, less likely, spending cuts in other areas.

Well, the first bill that passed last week had an interesting rule attached to it in which our colleagues from the Rules Committee had said that if a bill passes on the floor of the House, if the companion bill does not pass, then in spite of the fact that the first bill passed on its own, neither bill would be able to be sent to the Senate if the latter bill didn't pass.

The latter one is the one I want to talk about tonight, and that was the bill that was passed in order to pay for the additional spending for the delegate converted to a Member and the new Member for Utah is going to cost. Now, in terms of West Texans, it is a lot of money. But in terms of the overall budget and the numbers that we typically deal with here in D.C., it is a relatively modest amount of money. But, nevertheless, it is new spending.

So the bill that did pass was to, in effect, alleviate the PAYGO violation that the first bill created by spending new money without offsetting it with increased taxes on someone or decreases in spending. And what the bill did was simply accelerate or increase the amount of estimated tax payments that taxpayers who make more than \$5 million in adjusted gross income each year have to pay in.

Now, admittedly, folks who make more than \$5 million a year in adjusted gross income are not a particularly sympathetic group. They are easy targets; so this increase in the estimated tax payment would pay for the additional spending on a strict cash-flow basis.

Now, what they have done, in effect, with this mechanism is to take an advance on next month's salary to pay for this month's expenses, which creates a very interesting definition of PAYGO. It is not by any means a traditional definition of PAYGO, but as I noted last time I looked, most of the colleagues on the other side of the aisle voted in favor of what I would call a very twisted version of PAYGO to get out from under this taint that their first bill passed.

The mechanics are that folks who make more than \$5 million a year in adjusted gross income have to make quarterly estimated tax payments, in addition to whatever withholding they may make on their salaries, in order that on April 15 of the following year they have paid in all of the money that

they will owe in taxes that year, estimated to have made.

So they will make a payment on April 15 for their 2007 taxes. They will make a payment on June 15 for 2007 taxes. They will make a payment on September 15, and then they will make a final payment on January 15 that should, in effect, pay 100 percent of their 2007 tax bill.

What this provision does is it creates a safe harbor for those folks that says if their income went up substantially from one year to the next, then they may have paid in less money than is due for that year.

□ 2240

The mechanics of this is the Tax Code creates a safe harbor for these taxpayers. It says if you've paid in 100 percent of what your actual was the year before, and you've paid that in by April 15 and your ultimate tax liability is a lot more than that, then there are no penalties and interest associated with it if you do the catch-up on April 15.

So what the bill last week did is it increased that safe harbor number by one-tenth of a percent. Now, this is a bunch of mumbo-jumbo for most folks back home, but basically what this does is we have borrowed the money to pay for these additional expenses from someone that may or may not owe additional taxes. And, in fact, the bill sponsor from the other side specifically said at the end of his conversation on the floor last week that his bill raised taxes on no Americans, did not raise any new tax, did not raise any taxes.

So what we had here is a cash flow issue that accelerated some cash flow to the Federal Government, and under this scoring mechanism that we use, it appears that PAYGO has not been violated, it has been honored. But basically what we've done with this version of PAYGO, and apparently there are going to be multiple versions of PAYGO that get talked about on this House floor, this version of PAYGO simply says that if we can take an advance from next month's salary to pay for next month's expenses, then we're okay, and we will worry about next month next month. So this is a very interesting concept for PAYGO. It is not the traditional PAYGO that most folks in District 11 would understand and agree to. It is a new version.

Mr. SHUSTER. Can you explain that PAYGO so people understand it better, what PAYGO really means, what it should mean.

Mr. CONAWAY. In its purest form it would mean that any new spending that this House decides is good Federal new spending, whether that's new, new spending or a growth in expenditures that is built into current mechanisms, would be paid for, in effect, by raising taxes, new taxes from somewhere, or reducing expenses in some other place in this Federal Government so that you have a net zero. In its purest form it would apply to both new programs as

well as existing entitlements that grow on their own, that we would continue to keep the number, in effect, flat if we are using offsets against expenses; or if we increased it, we would increase taxes to pay for it so that the deficit wouldn't get any worse or any better under PAYGO. We wouldn't cause any problems with new legislation that would cause the Federal deficit, in effect, to go up by either doing like we do at home, getting a part-time job to help pay for those other expenses, or making some tough hard choices on priorities, setting priorities to reduce spending in some other area to provide for monies for this new spending that may be coming in.

So that is PAYGO in its purest form. It's unusual, not likely that we would get, collectively, both sides of the aisle to agree to that strict a term of PAYGO. The PAYGO that will probably be used often is some variation of what you may have heard about tonight, and others. Spending that grows on its own under the entitlements programs that are out there probably isn't subject to PAYGO. We won't have to offset that or increase expenses anywhere else. We just let that continue to grow out. So there will be a variety of definitions.

So what I hope to be able to communicate to the folks in District 11, and, Mr. Speaker, what I hope other Americans understand is that when they hear the phrase "PAYGO," it is all in the definition. It is all about what does it mean. Because apparently PAYGO has a variety of meanings in these Chambers from time to time. And the one that was used last week, in my view, is flawed in the purest sense of PAYGO.

So if you would indulge me a couple more minutes to talk about sales taxes, that is particularly important to folks from Texas.

The tax extensions and the tax changes that were brought about 2001-2003 and more recently extended into 2006 address some inequities between States that have State income taxes and States that don't. Texas is one of those States that does not have a State individual income tax and, as such, funds its State and local governments through property taxes and sales taxes, along with a lot of other fees and excise taxes, those types of things.

But under our current Federal Income Tax Code, all States that have income taxes, those citizens get to deduct their income taxes from their Federal taxable income in order to get to a net tax; in other words, they are not paying Federal tax on the monies that they have to pay into their State governments. They get a deduction for that, and that's fine.

But to States like Texas, since we have no income tax, we don't get a deduction. In the past, beginning in 1986 and forward, off and on again, Texans were allowed to deduct their sales taxes in lieu of a State income tax. So a citizen could look at whichever tax they paid and deduct that, and it would

put those citizens on a more equitable footing with citizens from States that pay taxes. In effect, what you get, if citizens from non-income tax States don't get to make that deduction, then they in effect are paying a higher Federal income tax than taxpayers in equivalent circumstances in States with an income tax, and that is inequitable and should be addressed.

So the impact specifically on Texans, if this is not fixed, would be that the average tax increase per taxpayer, as computed by the Heritage Foundation, the average tax increase per taxpayer, not family, but per taxpayer, for Texans, would be \$2,755 per year beginning in 2011. The loss of income per capita, and this is income lost on top of the increased taxes, is \$510 per person. And Texas will lose, as a result of this, estimated in 2012, 75,000-plus jobs.

Let me talk in a little further detail on District 11, which I represent. The tax increase there per person will be a little bit less than the state-wide average. We will have a tax increase per taxpayer of \$2,091 a year, about \$200 a month almost. And then on top of that there will be another \$974 that each taxpayer will lose in income on top of this tax increase. And there will be 2,153 jobs lost across the district.

This happens if we allow this unfair, inequitable circumstance to exist between States that have State income taxes and States that don't at the Federal level. And I am hoping that, while it's not provided for this year in the budget that was passed, I am hopeful that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will see this as one of those opportunities for tax equity in our Tax Code, and we will put in the right provisions in the next tax bill that would allow Texans to deduct sales taxes in lieu of their Federal income tax.

My colleague from Pennsylvania, I appreciate you giving me this time tonight, and I yield back.

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank the gentleman. I appreciate you coming down and talking about the budget because I know you understand it; but as I said earlier, more importantly as a CPA, you really understand what the Tax Code means to individual businesses and families.

In fact, just last week I had a conversation, I would say it was an unfortunate conversation with my CPA as we went through my tax returns and had to pay taxes, as millions and millions of people across this country had to do.

I know the gentleman said he had one more point to make.

Mr. CONAWAY. I had one more comment. I was also sitting with my older son, who is a broker with Merrill Lynch. And while his CPA was handing him his tax return, he was going through it, looking at it and he suddenly discovered that he owed a relatively sizeable amount of alternative minimum tax. And we will go through that concept on another night, but this is a tax that is going to catch a grow-

ing number of middle-income Americans that is, in effect, a tax increase on him. So once he discovered that he had now become subject to the alternative minimum tax, he was, shall I say, less than pleased with that number and is looking forward to this Chamber addressing the alternative minimum tax as a part of the overall tax fix. We are trying to come up with a tax scheme that collects the minimum amount of money needed to fund this Federal Government.

□ 2050

Mr. SHUSTER. That ATM which I mentioned earlier and this conversation I have had over the past couple of weeks with my accountant, he is seeing married couples, both husband and wife are teachers, and they are real close to getting caught up in that minimum tax. Again, two teachers making a decent living, and they are getting caught up in a tax code that is increasing their taxes. We need to address that.

As I said, talking to my accountant last week, as millions of Americans had, to fill out the paperwork and write checks to pay their taxes, it is a yearly ritual that is unavoidable. The government has made this an incredibly complicated process to go through. Not only does it seem we are ignoring the need to extend these tax cuts so Americans pay less, but we are ignoring the fact we need to reform our Tax Code to make it simpler.

I recently read an article by John Stossel from ABC, and he wrote in 2005 Americans spent 6.4 billion hours complying with the Federal Tax Code. He further stated that a Washington-based group, The Tax Foundation, calculated that that 6.4 billion hours was valued at \$265 billion, was what Americans spent on complying with the Tax Code. That is more than the Federal deficit last year.

If we could cut that in half, imagine \$130 billion going into the economy, our small businesses being able to buy more equipment, employ more people, build a new building, expand their operations; the American family, having \$130 billion to buy a new washer and dryer, save for college. What will it do for this economy? We have to make sure we pay attention to that.

As we were talking earlier tonight, the Democrat budget put out last week, in Pennsylvania alone it is going to increase taxes by 2009 on the average Pennsylvanian by over \$3,000. We hope that people will e-mail us at [countdowncrew@mail.house.gov](mailto:countdowncrew@mail.house.gov) and let us know what \$3,000 would mean to your family, how important that would be, that you would have that \$3,000 to spend, instead of sending it to Washington.

As we keep pointing out, by 2011, if we don't act, the Democrat majority is going to increase taxes by almost \$400 billion. It will be the largest tax increase in American history. I haven't been able to document this, but I think

it is probably the largest tax increase in the history of the world. The American people need to understand that. That is the sad reality. We are taxing too much. We have got to make sure that we in Washington are making this government work efficiently and not wasting their money, but making sure that they continue to keep more of their hard-earned dollars.

Next Monday night is going to be Tax Freedom Day, April 30 this year. That means Americans will, after April 30th, starting May 1, will be able to start working for themselves. The first 4 months of the year they have been working to pay their taxes, and on May first they work for themselves.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I need to correct something. The sales tax issue that I was talking about is included within the overall numbers that I talked about. Those overall numbers are the same ones that compare to the \$3,000 tax hit that you will have. The sales tax issue is included with the other expiring Tax Code provisions that we were able to implement in 2001 and 2003.

So the numbers I quoted was not just sales taxes, but sales tax is an element in Texas of \$2,755 increase, in District 11 a \$2,391 increase. So it is more than just a sales tax. I think I misspoke earlier in our conversation when I was talking about sales taxes. That sales tax issue is included in that number as well.

Mr. SHUSTER. I appreciate the gentleman for pointing that out.

As I said, next Monday night, April 30, Tax Freedom Day, Americans will begin to start working for themselves. In 2003, Tax Freedom Day was April 18. We have slowly grown to April 30. It will be even longer than that if this Congress doesn't act. The percentage the Federal Government is going to take from people will grow. People will earn less. As I said earlier, the average Pennsylvanian, and there are 4.7 million Pennsylvanians that will pay taxes, on average that tax will go up by \$3,000.

So we hope the American people communicate with us at [countdowncrew@mail.house.gov](mailto:countdowncrew@mail.house.gov) and let us know what they could do with that \$3,000, as well as over the past 4 or 5 years what it has meant to them, whether it is their family, whether it is a small business, how they have been able to utilize those tax cuts in expanding their business and saving for their children's future. These are extremely important matters that this Congress has to address.

As we started off saying, in 1,349 days, if we don't act, if the U.S. Congress doesn't act, there is going to be the largest tax increase in American history.

So I appreciate the gentleman from Texas. I don't know if you have anything else to add. If not, I will yield back the time. I know some of our other colleagues have come to the floor here to talk about important things.

But we want to make sure the American people know what is going to happen if the flawed logic is employed that if we don't vote on a tax increase, it is not really a tax increase, when in fact if people pay more money, that is a tax increase. The American people need to know that.

I appreciate my colleague coming down to the floor tonight.

#### TORT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLISON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) is recognized for half the remaining time until midnight.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to stand here on this floor.

The subject of this special hour will be a debate between myself and the gentlewoman from West Virginia, Mrs. CAPITO. But before we begin our debate, which is aimed primarily at demonstrating to our colleagues that we can speak passionately about a matter and still avoid name calling or irreverence or incivility, before we get into our debate on tort reform, I would like to yield to the gentlewoman from West Virginia for some special comments unrelated to our debate.

IN MEMORY OF JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD  
AND THE VICTIMS OF THE VIRGINIA TECH  
TRAGEDY

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Missouri. I look forward to our second debate, our second civil debate on a new topic.

Before we move to the subject at hand, I would like to join with my colleagues in expressing my deep sorrow at the passing of our colleague, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Just briefly, she was a kind and gentle person. She was a great advocate for many things that she believed in. She was a pioneer. But, for me, she was just a very helpful and warm and friendly person.

When I came to Congress, she had already been here for several years. She was the chairman of the Caucus on Women's Issues, and I was the vice chair for the Republican side. JUANITA was always very helpful, always very concerned that I was making my way in my first several months in Congress, and I think the way she crossed the aisle, the way that she treated me with kid gloves, so-to-speak, in the beginning of my term, is something that I will never forget. So my thoughts and prayers are with her. Bless her family during this very tough time, and know that she will be missed.

I would also like to express publicly before this body and before this Nation my deep sadness over the tragic events at Virginia Tech last week. I haven't spoken publicly on the House floor about this, but it is deeply crushing to all of us, has been, and it has sort of set a pall or a feeling of helplessness for all of us.

I have college age children. I can't imagine the despair the families are feeling who have lost a loved one, to realize that that phone call that you are waiting for is never going to come.

So, to my friends in the Virginia Tech community, many West Virginians attend Virginia Tech. We have a great fondness for Virginia Tech, except possibly when we are playing them in football. But certainly our collective hearts go out to them during this difficult time.

I yield back to my friend from Missouri, and we will kick off the evening.

□ 2300

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the comments of the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO). I too would like to express sympathy to Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD's family and to the families of those young people whose lives were senselessly taken at Virginia Tech.

The issue surfaces from time to time that there is a desperate need for us to do something major legislatively for tort reform, that these greedy trial lawyers are out damaging if not destroying the Nation, running people out of the medical profession, creating economic problems for oil companies. I take a different view of that. Obviously, there are inappropriate lawsuits, and I think the courts usually deal with those.

But trial lawyers work to provide somewhat of a level playing field for most Americans, small Americans, so they can hold even the most powerful corporations accountable for their actions when they cause injury or death.

Today drug companies and oil companies, big insurance companies and large corporations too often dominate our political process and they begin to ask legislators to restrict access to the courts. When corporations and CEOs act irresponsibly by refusing or delaying to pay insurance claims, producing unsafe products, polluting our environment or swindling their employees or shareholders, the last resort for Americans, and this is our system, is to hold them accountable in our courts of law. By holding them accountable, trial lawyers and their families are able to feel that this is a safer America.

From automobile fuel tanks that explode in rear-end collisions to bullet-proof vests that fail to stop bullets aimed at police officers, we have to realize that there must be some corporation, some individual held accountable. And these cases that I mentioned earlier were actual cases and they brought to light deceptive practices and cover-ups by manufacturers that resulted in serious injury and even death.

The civil justice system helps provide compensation to those that are injured and helps prevent other needless injury from occurring.

I will now yield to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mrs. CAPITO. Thank you, I appreciate your opening statements. This

may be a very civil debate because I couldn't agree with you more in that our civil justice system should be readily available, should be the place for the individual to seek redress when they have been wronged by either a corporation or corporate injustice or product failure. And I think that is the intent of our court system.

However, what we are experiencing now in the United States is an overabundance, a glut of lawsuits that are clogging our courts, that are in some cases awarding outrageous jackpot types of awards, and because of that, because of that jackpot sort of mentality, many people with their legal assistance are clogging the courts so that those people who have suffered injustices and those people who are due awards are unable to get there.

One of the issues that I think is extremely important is the cost to our economy. We talk all of the time on the floor about the importance of small businesses in the United States. I come from a small State, and I think small business comprises close to 90 percent of the businesses in our State. When you look at the burden of the current tort system on our small businesses, we are breaking the backs of our small business people.

I would like to refer to my chart over here: effect on small business, the tort liability price tag for small businesses in America is \$88 billion a year.

Small businesses bear 68 percent of business tort liability costs, but only take in 28 percent of business revenue. And for the very small businesses, the tort liability price tag is \$33 billion.

These are statistics that show, and this is from an independent resource, it is not from a group that is shaded one way or the other. It has shown the rise in the cost of tort claims in this country.

Very small businesses pay 44 percent of tort liability costs out of pocket as opposed to through insurance. And so what happens is a lot of times small businesses, one small business is one large case or one frivolous lawsuit away from having to close their doors.

I yield back to the gentleman from Missouri to see if he has a reaction to that.

Mr. CLEAVER. I think there are perhaps some legitimate concerns by small business owners, but I don't think that the trouble is with the litigation. I think the problem is with insurance companies. Now, the gentlewoman and I both serve on the Financial Services Committee; and one of the concerns we have been grappling with, particularly in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the gulf coast, is that insurance companies that are not regulated by the United States Federal Government from time to time are the culprits, and I will get back to that in just a minute. But I wanted to say that the tort filings in State courts have declined by 10 percent since 1994. And automobile filings which make up the majority of tort claims have fallen 14 percent.

So what you are finding is that more and more cases are not finding their way into the courts. But what troubles me and I think will trouble Americans when they find out more about it is the fact that the insurance companies end up really being the beneficiaries in the debate that occurs from time to time in this country on the subject of tort reform. The reason I say that is that there was a study done that showed that even in States where tort reform occurred, insurance premiums never dropped, and in some instances they actually increased.

So we have a problem with the small businesses that I agree exists, but I am suggesting that one of the ways in which we deal with this problem is not trying to restrict the courts from dealing with the claims that people bring before them, but rather for the insurance companies.

Let me give one example, Mr. Speaker. A month after passing malpractice caps, South Carolina's two largest insurers increased rates by as much as 22 percent after increasing their rates by 27 percent the year before.

And after Texas passed rate caps in 2003, the Joint Underwriters Association requested a 35 percent premium increase for physicians and 68 percent for hospitals. This is after tort reform, after things were supposed to have been reformed so that people are protected. So the winner ends up being the insurance companies.

Mrs. CAPITO. I am glad you brought up medical malpractice reform because in West Virginia we have lived this subject since I have been in Congress. In the campaign of 2002, many doctors were leaving the State of West Virginia, closing up shop, early retirement, choosing to try another State because of either the unavailability of medical malpractice insurance or the astronomically skyrocketing escalation of medical liability reform.

So an interesting thing happened. West Virginia is known to be a State that is very tort friendly. So people asked me how did the State legislature, which is predominantly Democratic, and the Governor, who was Democrat, how were they able to pass with relative ease such massive medical malpractice reform legislation. I know exactly how because I was in that campaign in the 2002 year.

□ 2310

It was people coming up to you on the street saying my doctor's leaving. It was grandparents, it was seniors, it was pediatricians, OB/GYNs, neurologists, trauma specialists. Our largest hospital in my community had to close and be downgraded in terms of their trauma because the trauma surgeons left because of the high cost of medical liability reform causing, in one case, a young child in Putnam County, which is like 30 minutes away, had to drive all the way to Cincinnati, he and his parents, 4 hours away, to have a penny removed from his windpipe because

there was no one to do it in our local area. That could have been a life-ending experience for that family, a very, very tragic one, and actually had a happy ending.

So the legislature got on board, the Governor got on board and passed State medical malpractice reform with a cap. I believe it is a half million dollars on noneconomic damages. I am not 100 percent sure. There was a debate on 250 or 500, but I think it was 500. They created a West Virginia Mutual Insurance Company, and according to the statistics that I have in front of me, those medical malpractice premiums have gone down 5 percent in not only general practice but also in the specialties.

The large hospital I referred to earlier, where they could not recruit and retain physicians, they now are adding 49 and 50 new positions a year, whereas before they were afraid they were not even going to be able to attract 15 or 20.

So this medical liability reform has had a phenomenal effect in our State of West Virginia. And if I can get my other chart out here real quick, this shows some States that are considered to be in crisis, which I notice your State is in crisis over here, and West Virginia would have been in the red, in the crisis area, but we moved ourselves out to caution. We are in the yellow area, where we were actually considered one of the most difficult climates for practitioners of medicine to come. We are not a State where we are able to retain and control, and it is directly attributable to the medical liability reform bill that we passed, that the State passed in 2003.

Mr. CLEAVER. May I inquire of the gentlewoman from West Virginia, the white States are what?

Mrs. CAPITO. Stable. They are considered stable. Look over here, California, which is held up to be one of the States that passed medical liability reform in the 1970s, it is considered stable, and West Virginia was modeled after what was done in California.

Mr. CLEAVER. I think, to some degree, that helps my position, not with West Virginia because I am not familiar with West Virginia, but you are absolutely right about my home State of Missouri. But it all relates back to my earlier comments about insurance companies.

A national study conducted in 2005 by former Missouri Insurance Commissioner Jay Angoff found that insurance companies have been price-gouging doctors by dramatically and drastically raising their insurance premiums, even though claims for payments have been flat or decreasing. According to the annual statements of 15 large insurance companies, the 15th largest in fact, the amount malpractice insurers collected in premiums increased by 120.2 percent between 2000 and 2004, while claim payouts rose by only 5.7 percent.

I think if you look at the report from Jay Angoff from the Missouri Insur-

ance Commission, you find that clearly the insurance companies are the ones doing enormous damage to this country.

The other issue is that I think the insurance companies have gouged so much that many of the people in the country, probably even in my home State, operate under the assumption that malpractice costs run physicians away from their profession.

The truth of the matter is that, according to the American Medical Association, the number of physicians in the United States of America increased by 40 percent since 1990, 40 percent. And so more and more men and women are going into the profession, even as the insurance companies are creating this crisis, and they are the ones that seem to be held harmless. They are rarely the center of the debate. It is usually the lawyers and the physicians.

I take the position that neither of them are actually the villains here. It is the insurance companies that continue to increase the rates. They pay out less money in the payments and then they are getting fatter and fatter.

One last comment on this. According to the Bush administration's Justice Department, if I can find their study, the Justice Department actually says that we are dropping in the number of cases that are being brought forward in the courts, and so I think what we end up doing, I think, is fighting a ghost, because the insurance companies have become ghostly in that they can become invisible during the debate because they do not have to get in it because they have not been portrayed as either the victim or the villain. So I would suggest that our positions may not be dramatically different except that I see the problem more in the hands of the insurance companies.

Mrs. CAPITO. Well, I think I would like to go back a little bit to medical malpractice, talking about it. See, I think you were making my case for me when you said the situation in Missouri, because you do not have medical liability reform, correct?

Mr. CLEAVER. That is right.

Mrs. CAPITO. You have skyrocketing costs of your medical liability. A lot of doctors, and I am sure you have had this conversation with the doctors, they practice basically with one arm tied behind their back because they are practicing medicine defensively. Nearly 80 percent of the doctors say they order unnecessary tests, and 74 percent say they make unnecessary referrals to specialists due to the fear of being sued. A lot of doctors are practicing defensive medicine, ordering many more medical procedures and tests to cover themselves in the case of a legal test or a lawsuit, and that raises the cost of not only their insurance but it also raises the cost of every individual's health insurance because it raises the cost of practicing medicine or delivering health care in a general sense.

I think that a comprehensive solution is certainly part of what we need



to look at here, and that does include the insurance companies most certainly, but it also includes looking at what has happened in some manufacturing segments that have had extreme loss of jobs; 52,000 to 60,000 jobs have been lost in the manufacturing segment of this country because of bankruptcies being caused by massive and huge tort lawsuits. And so I think that there is a median here, there is an easy median that we can find here.

But I would recommend to you that the experience that we had in West Virginia with medical liability reform, across the board, bringing more specialists in as a result, bringing the cost of medical liability insurance down, recruitment and retention of physicians is something that we need to look at nationwide, and that is why I support a Federal medical liability reform which I am sure is no surprise to you that I would support that and have been pushing for it over the last 7 years.

But I think there is also a cost to just the individual person as we inflate the cost of defending ourselves, businesses defending themselves, doctors defending themselves, hospitals defending themselves.

My final chart here, and I do not know if you can read it or not, but I will read the bottom line here. It shows that in 2005, the U.S. population being approximately 296 million, that the tort cost per capita for each individual is \$880.

□ 2320

Whereas when you were talking about 1990 with the physicians, in 1990, that cost was only \$522, which is still too much. So I think that we need to find a medium here where we can control frivolous lawsuits, where we can control the ability of people to have mass tort actions and seek friendly environments for those tort actions. And we tried to address that in Congress with a class action reform. And we need to make sure that those people that are damaged, hurt, have access to court, but also in a timely manner. With all this massive tort legislation or lawsuits in our courts, it is bogging up the courts and it is really hurting those people who are genuinely hurt and need to have remedies.

Mr. CLEAVER. The gentlewoman from West Virginia makes a good point. I do, however, think that this may cause her to join me. That is, according to the Bush administration, this is what I was looking for earlier, this is from the Justice Department of the Bush administration, their researchers found that the median inflated adjusted award in 2001 was just \$28,000. And most of the discussion, you hear people talking about, millions, maybe even billions, but the average median inflated adjusted award in 2001 was \$28,000. And even in medical malpractice cases in which the injuries tend to be far, far more serious than the average tort case, the median award was only \$170,000, which is far

from the multibillion dollar lottery tort reformers have often brought before us.

The other issue that I would like to bring forth is that, according to the Congressional Budget Office, malpractice costs amount to less than 2 percent of the overall medical cost. And so when we start talking about the cost of medicine and how it is skyrocketing, and it is, but when you think about the fact that the cost for malpractice or the cost for the insurance, which supercedes the cost really paid out, it accounts for only 2 percent of the overall medical costs in the United States, which is Herculean; but 2 percent is almost nonexistent.

And I think what has happened is that we have created a mountain out of a mole hill. That is not to say that there are not problems, but judges will quite often tell a lawyer that the case submitted is simply frivolous, and that case will never come to court, and then of course summary judgments can also prevent cases from ever coming to court. So judges have the option of looking at a case and deciding whether or not it is worthy of taking up the time and resources of the court.

And then the other part of it is that in an overwhelming majority of these cases, the amount or the award of the judgment is set by a jury, which are everyday people. And this is not to say that there should not be something done. I just think putting artificial caps would be the wrong thing to do. And that is generally one of the proposals that comes up. I'm not sure if the gentlewoman from West Virginia is supporting caps or not, but I think that if that is one of the solutions, I think a one-size-fits-all kind of solution is unfair to people who may suffer a very, very debilitating injury in the same category of someone who has a fender bender.

I yield back to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. CAPITO. Well, I think you are getting to the point here where you are talking about the difference between a legitimate claim and a frivolous claim.

I don't have statistics in front of me, but I know they exist in every court in America where certain frivolous lawsuits are put out on the table, they overreach in terms of not only are they suing maybe a business, but they are going to sue the manufacturer, they are going to sue the car they rode to go to work in, they are going to sue, you know, anybody with deep pockets is going to get sued for an alleged wrong. And it is absolutely a fact that some of these cases and more and more of these cases are not founded in legitimate fact. They are frivolous. They are trying to get into the system to get a quick fix, to get a lottery mentality, to have the corporation settle, or whoever settle, so they can get in and get out of the court system, and then have their attorney take a 40 or 50 percent cut from that.

I had a very startling thing happen to me. A gentleman approached me at a

political gathering a couple of years ago. He had oxygen, he was walking very slowly. And he came up to me and he said, I have asbestosis, and I have lung disease from that. And I took my case to court with my lawyer. And he didn't tell me how much he was awarded, but he was awarded some remedy for that. And it was very obvious that he had difficulty breathing, and it was very obvious that he needed some help, a lot of help.

But what he wanted to show me that day was the invoice. He got a settlement every month or every two months, a pay-out, or it might have even been every year. But he showed me how much he got, and I think it was around \$1,500. And every single time he gets that he has to take off 40 percent of that, or 45 percent of that, I think it was 40 percent in this case, for his attorney. Every single time he gets a payment, his attorney gets 40 percent. And this guy was on oxygen, could barely walk. And I think, you know, there is something wrong with the system where the harmed person who needs the help and has a legitimate claim, and certainly I know lawyers take risks by taking cases, I understand that part of it, but sometimes it just seems astronomical to me that the fees are 40, by the time you get expenses, and 50 percent of what the court has determined that victim is due and willing. I think that is an injustice in the system, along with the frivolous lawsuits that we see clogging up our courts so this gentleman can get his case heard.

Mr. CLEAVER. The meritless cases, however, rarely ever win in the first place. I was offended when I first heard that somebody sued McDonald's because they ordered a cup of hot coffee and were burned by the hot coffee that they ordered. I was offended by that as well, and I think most Americans are. But in reality, the meritless cases rarely ever win in the first place, and that is contrary to the allegations that generally come forth, particularly from the major corporations.

They would have us believe that the frivolous lawsuits are just automatically finding their way to the courtroom and that they are meritless, but they win. And the truth of the matter is that our intricate system, with the law and juries and judges and even independent reviewers, will pretty much weed out the frivolous lawsuits. And they are filed to no one's benefit, except a lawyer, who I think we can find one in any profession who is going to try to take advantage of their system. And it has nothing to do with having gone to law school. It has something to do with human nature.

But I think that the way that this whole issue has been played out ends up actually protecting the one entity that I think is the most culpable, and that is the insurance companies that are not regulated.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no Republican hour at this time,

the gentleman from Missouri is recognized for the remainder of the hour.

Mr. CLEAVER. I would yield to the gentlelady from West Virginia for closing remarks on the debate with regard to tort reform, and then I think we would like to express some concerns about civility, Mr. Speaker.

□ 2330

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for staying up late, and I thank all those who are listening.

I think we have talked a lot about our different perspectives on tort reform. I have talked about the need to rein in the system, because we are losing jobs. We are costing the American public, each individual, \$880 is the cost for every individual for the lawsuit glut that we have in this country. Unfortunately, some of those who are damaged or who are due and willing are unable to get into a clogged-up court system.

We are losing jobs in some of our manufacturing segment because of the exorbitant cost of litigation. In many States, we have a medical liability crisis where physicians are paying exorbitant amounts of their hard-earned dollars for the cost of medical liability insurance, and it has proven in my State, at least, if you pass good sense medical liability insurance reform, you can rein in the cost of insurance and can make the system better. I understand there are other players at the table here. There is the Bar, there is the individual, there is certainly the business community and there is the insurance community.

I think the best solution to this enormous problem, this very costly problem to the American economy, is to get everybody at the table for common sense reform. We passed class action reform, and it is helping to weed out some of those large and unwieldy cases and make them adhere to more stringent requirements.

With that, I yield back to the gentleman from Missouri to close on this topic.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, there are people all around this country who look at C-SPAN on a daily basis and who look listen to radio talk shows, look at television news programs, and they see Members of Congress, both House and Senate, screaming at each other. They see from time to time the animated debates that take place on these shows, and even here in this great hall.

Many, many great patriots have stepped into the well of the House of Representatives to wax eloquent, because this is the place where the great orators stood and presented their cases to each other and to the American public. But in the past decade or so, we have seen a dramatic drop in the civility exercised by Members of this body, and we have seen it from both sides of the aisle.

Let me share something with you that I read the other day by William

Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania. He said this: "I know of no religion that destroys courtesy, civility or kindness." That is the kind of statement that the Members of this great body ought to keep in mind when we step into the well.

I came to Washington and to the Congress with this desire in my heart, to do what I could to make this a more civil place. With the intensity and intention of debate, sometimes it is difficult to restrain ourselves. But restraint is something that we can do and feel better about having done it on the morning. It is delayed satisfaction. We might get some immediate joy from being nasty, but the greater joy is restraint and receiving greater joy later, that you actually had the discipline to control your tongue.

I have opinions that are very, very strong. I feel strong about tort reform, not because I am an attorney. I have four children. None of them are attorneys. But I personally feel strongly about it because of some personal things that happened in my own family that could have gone to court, that we did not take to court for a lot of reasons. One of the things that we felt strongly about was our own integrity, so we didn't go to court.

But my challenge is to state whatever strong feelings I have in a tone that raises the level of the conversation and honors those who disagree with me.

When you look at the roots of the word "civility," to be civil is to be a citizen, a respected part of the community. So to be uncivil is to fracture the community, locally, nationally and internationally, and that is something that none of us can afford to do.

Not long ago President Gerald Ford died, and I was reminded of a story of his days here in this House. He held regular debates here in Washington with his Democratic counterpart Congressman Thomas Hale Boggs. They would debate at the National Press Club. At Congressman Gerald Ford's suggestion, they would ride over from the Capitol to the National Press Club and agree on the topic of the debate. Can you imagine that happening in 2007? Then, after the debate, they would go out and have lunch.

Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of House I think we need to demand as a part of what takes place in this city called Washington, D.C. I hope, I even pray, that the men and women of this great body will learn to exercise restraint, because what we do and say here in this hallowed place actually reverberates and ends up traveling all across the length and breadth of this Nation, and the words we say will impact the people around this country.

I say again, there are few Members of this Congress, if any, who would say to their children, watch C-SPAN and watch the leaders of this Nation debate, so that they can show you how to act around people with whom you have a disagreement.

We can do better, and I think we will. I believe that because Mrs. CAPITO is interested in doing this, the road towards civility is now under construction, and I enjoy serving with the gentlelady from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for participating tonight. He is a very able debater. I learned in our first debate when we debated tax reform that you are a wonderful closer too, so I hate to close.

But I would like to talk a little bit about civility, because it is very important to me. It is about being polite. It is understanding that we have different views and that we don't disrespect one another because of that. It is about believing that our ideas, yes, we believe our ideas are the right ideas, but it doesn't necessarily mean that the opposite ideas or a different idea doesn't have merit. It also doesn't mean that because we are in different parties, we don't have a lot of to give and we don't have a lot to share. I think a lot of that gets lost here on the floor of the House.

My great fear is because of the partisanship and the evolved incivility of our debate, that when that person turns on that TV or that young person turns on C-SPAN to watch debate, they see the rancor and they see the acrimonious debate and some of the language that is used, and what do they do? They turn it off. And then what are they doing? They are not listening to the merits of the topic. They are not listening to tax reform ideas or medical malpractice reform ideas or the war in Iraq differing ideas, because of the tone, and the way it is delivered and the words that are used have lost their way and have turned the American public off.

Now, when I go and speak to people in my district and I begin to talk like that, people start nodding their heads, you are right. We do stop listening. We are no longer interested.

So I think while these hallowed halls have had more than their share of vigorous debate, there is a good way to do it, and there is a good way to convey our ideas in a very civil way.

I really appreciate the way, when you said that Gerald Ford and Hale Boggs used to drive over together and then have lunch afterwards, I think it is a little late for lunch tonight, so I think we will have to do that another time. But I have enjoyed debating this topic. I look forward to the next topic that we debate. I hope that when we get together again, maybe we can get some of our other colleagues here and have more of a round-robin so we can get our colleagues not only involved in the debate on the topic, but also demonstrating a civil way to present ideas to the American public.

□ 2340

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the Special Order of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BUYER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of medical reasons.

Mr. EVERETT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business.

Mr. LUCAS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of family matters.

Mr. LINDER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business.

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business.

Mr. POE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business.

Mr. WICKER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for April 19 and 20 on account of attending his daughter's wedding.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WATSON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ELLISON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BORDALLO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MEEKS of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TOWNS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ESHOO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TIERNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1003. An act to amend the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 to

reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy.

H.R. 1130. An act to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to extend the authority to withhold from public availability a financial disclosure report filed by an individual who is a judicial officer or judicial employee, to the extent necessary to protect the safety of that individual or a family member of that individual, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 328, I move that the House do now adjourn in memory of the late Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at 10:30 a.m., for morning hour debate, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD of California.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1224. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Highly Migratory Species Fisheries [Docket No. 061113298-7046-02; I.D. 110106A] (RIN: 0648-AU91) received March 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1225. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction [Docket No. 001005281-0369-02; I.D. 022207A] received March 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1226. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 070213033-7033-01; I.D. 030207A] received March 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1227. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction [Docket No. 001005281-0369-02; I.D. 022207A] received March 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1228. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule —

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Modification of the Gear Restrictions and Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder Trip Limits for the U.S./Canada Management Area [Docket No. 060606150-6240-02; I.D. 030107A] received March 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1229. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01; I.D. 030707A] received March 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1230. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01; I.D. 030707B] received March 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1231. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01; I.D. 022807A] received March 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1232. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Amendment 1 [Docket No. 060901235-7027-02; I.D. 082406C] (RIN: 0648-AQ87) received March 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1233. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Correction [Docket No. 060824226-7041-03; I.D. 082806B] (RIN: 0648-AU57) received April 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1234. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01; I.D. 032007A] received April 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1235. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Bridge at Deep Creek, Cheasepeake, Virginia Feasibility Study; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1236. A letter from the Administrator, FAA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the foreign aviation authorities to which the Federal Aviation Administration provided services for Fiscal Year 2006, pursuant to Public Law 103-305, section 202; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1237. A letter from the Honors Attorney, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for Reimbursement of General Aviation Operators and Service Providers in the Washington, D.C. Area [Docket OST-2006-25906] (RIN: 2105-AD61) received April 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1238. A letter from the Paralegal, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Clean Fuels Grant Program [Docket No. FTA-2006-24708] (RIN: 2132-AA91) received April 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1239. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program [Docket OST-97-2550] (RIN: 2105-AD51) received April 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1240. A letter from the Senior Vice President, Communications, Tennessee Valley Authority, transmitting a copy of the Authority's statistical summary for Fiscal Year 2006, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 831h(a); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1241. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Veterans and Dependents Education: Topping-Up Tuition Assistance; Licensing and Certification Tests; Duty to Assist Education Claimants (RIN: 2900-AK80) received April 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1242. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report on the Transportation Security Administration's Voluntary Provision of Emergency Services Program, pursuant to Public Law 109-295; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

1243. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's report on Multilateral Development bank loans likely to have substantial adverse impacts on environment, natural resources, public health and indigenous peoples, pursuant to Section 1303(c) of the International Financial Institutions Act; jointly to the Committees on Appropriations and Financial Services.

1244. A letter from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting the Seventeenth Annual Report describing the Board's health and safety activities relating to the Department of Energy's defense nuclear facilities during the calendar year 2006; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Energy and Commerce.

1245. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of legislative proposals as part of the National Defense Authorization Bill for Fiscal Year 2008; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs.

1246. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2006 Defense Environmental Programs Annual Report, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2706; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Energy and Commerce.

1247. A letter from the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee, transmitting a copy of the report for Fiscal Year 2006 regarding the activities and accomplishments of the De-

partment of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 320; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs.

1248. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's position on several reform proposals made concerning the Citizens' Health Care Working Group report and the report of the Medicaid Commission; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

1249. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report on issues related to the Clean Coal Power Initiative, as required by Section 401(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; jointly to the Committees on Science and Technology, Appropriations, and Energy and Commerce.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WELCH: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 327. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 362) to authorize science scholarships for educating mathematics and science teachers, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-105). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. FRANK: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1675. A bill to suspend the requirements of the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding electronic filing of previous participation certificates and regarding filing of such certificates with respect to certain low-income housing investors (Rept. 110-106). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MICHAUD (for himself and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 1992. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to prohibit the import, export, and sale of goods made with sweatshop labor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, Rules, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 1993. A bill to improve the delivery of counterterrorism financing training and technical assistance by providing for greater interagency coordination and cooperation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. McKEON (for himself and Mr. KELLER):

H.R. 1994. A bill to provide more transparency in the financial aid process and to ensure that students are receiving the best

information about financial aid opportunities; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 1995. A bill to provide a mechanism for a determination on the merits of the claims brought by survivors and descendants of the victims of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, Race Riot of 1921 but who were denied that determination; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GUTIERREZ (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Ms. CARSON, Mr. CLAY, and Ms. LEE):

H.R. 1996. A bill to clarify the applicability of State law to national banks and Federal savings associations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HIGGINS:

H.R. 1997. A bill to provide for reclassification of Chautauqua County, New York, for purposes of payment for inpatient hospital services under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin:

H.R. 1998. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for the expedited consideration of certain proposed rescissions of budget authority; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself and Mr. RENZI):

H.R. 1999. A bill to authorize appropriations for assistance for the National Council of La Raza and the Raza Development Fund; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DEAL of Georgia:

H.R. 2000. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage private philanthropy; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. INSLEE (for himself, Mr. TERRY, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 2001. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply the energy credit to combined heat and power system property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 2002. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for enhanced retirement security in the form of an Individual Social Security Investment Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. CLAY):

H.R. 2003. A bill to encourage and facilitate the consolidation of peace and security, respect for human rights, democracy, and economic freedom in Ethiopia; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PETRI:

H.R. 2004. A bill to establish and strengthen postsecondary programs and courses in the subjects of traditional American history, free institutions, and Western civilization, available to students preparing to teach these subjects, and to other students; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SALAZAR:

H.R. 2005. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care for veterans who live in rural areas, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 2006. A bill to improve the Nation's homeland security by strengthening the security of the visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. BOEHNER):

H.R. 2007. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that the National Security Personnel System shall not apply with respect to certain laboratories within the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:

H.R. 2008. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations that require air carriers to provide training for flight attendants and gate attendants regarding serving alcohol and dealing with disruptive passengers, and for other passengers; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WEXLER:

H.R. 2009. A bill to repeal the Medicare cost containment provisions contained in subtitle A of title VIII of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. JINDAL):

H. Con. Res. 125. Concurrent resolution recognizing the health benefits of eating seafood as part of a balanced diet, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Seafood Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. FARR, Mr. HOLT, Mr. STARK, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. McNULTY):

H. Con. Res. 126. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Day of Silence with respect to discrimination and harassment faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals in schools; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WATSON:

H. Res. 328. A resolution expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, a Representative from the State of California; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. JONES of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H. Res. 329. A resolution congratulating the Barton College men's basketball team for winning the 2007 NCAA Division II Men's Basketball National Championship; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 20: Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GORDON, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. UPTON, Mrs. BONO, Mr. MACK, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 21: Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. BARROW, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 41: Mr. PAUL, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 42: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 50: Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 98: Mr. DEAL of Georgia.

H.R. 140: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 171: Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 174: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 176: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HONDA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. WYNN, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. KILPATRICK.

H.R. 180: Ms. BERKLEY.

H.R. 234: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 254: Mr. JEFFERSON and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 294: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 315: Mr. SOUDER.

H.R. 322: Mr. GOODE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BONNER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. SALI, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. FORBES, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. PENCE, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MANZULLO, Ms. FOX, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. POE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. TANCREDO, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. BUYER, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. RENZI, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. AKIN, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 371: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 412: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 507: Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 551: Mrs. BONO, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 583: Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. RAMSTAD.

H.R. 612: Mr. CARNEY and Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 621: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Ms. HERSETH Sandlin.

H.R. 631: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. RAMSTAD.

H.R. 636: Mr. PICKERING and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 643: Ms. SUTTON.

H.R. 654: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 661: Mr. ROTHMAN and Mr. DELAHUNT.

H.R. 676: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 687: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. EMERSON, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 690: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.

H.R. 694: Mr. CLAY, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 724: Mrs. DRAKE.

H.R. 728: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 729: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 752: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 784: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.

H.R. 881: Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 891: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. SIRE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. PORTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 916: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas and Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.

H.R. 942: Mr. WYNN.

H.R. 943: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.R. 954: Mr. WATT.

H.R. 964: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 971: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. POMEROY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 980: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 984: Mr. EMANUEL.

H.R. 989: Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. AKIN.

H.R. 1023: Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. JORDAN, and Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 1028: Mr. ETHERIDGE and Mr. SHULER.

H.R. 1038: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.

H.R. 1043: Mr. McNULTY.

H.R. 1072: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1095: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 1098: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1102: Mr. HODES, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

H.R. 1103: Mr. CLAY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1108: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. ARCURI, and Mr. KAGEN.

H.R. 1133: Mr. SIRE, Mr. FILNER, Ms. HOOLEY, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HARE, Ms. WATSON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1147: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1148: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1188: Mr. MARSHALL.

H.R. 1222: Ms. DELAULO, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mrs. MUSGRAVE.

H.R. 1223: Ms. DELAULO, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 1238: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1246: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 1253: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1275: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. BACA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 1283: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. POMEROY, Ms. HOOLEY, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.

H.R. 1287: Mr. INSLEE.

H.R. 1293: Mr. INSLEE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. DENT, Mr. KUHLMAN of New York, Mr. RENZI, and Mr. JINDAL.

H.R. 1303: Mr. ACKERMAN.

H.R. 1312: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1328: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 1338: Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. DICKS, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HARE, Mr.

RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 1343: Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. DOOLITTLE, and Mr. BAIRD.

H.R. 1344: Mr. ROSS, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 1355: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.

H.R. 1371: Ms. CARSON.

H.R. 1385: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1386: Ms. BALDWIN and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 1396: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE, and Mr. LANTOS.

H.R. 1406: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mrs. GILIBRAND.

H.R. 1408: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 1415: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1416: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.

H.R. 1422: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 1439: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. McCAUL of Texas.

H.R. 1440: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 1441: Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 1470: Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 1475: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. STARK, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Ms. SUTTON.

H.R. 1541: Mr. DOYLE and Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 1551: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.

H.R. 1553: Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.

H.R. 1582: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1616: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1617: Mr. SKELTON, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 1619: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 1627: Mr. GOODE, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, and Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 1655: Mr. HOLT, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 1660: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.

H.R. 1663: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. FARR, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. HINCHAY, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 1674: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. SOUDER.

H.R. 1700: Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 1702: Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 1705: Mr. GINGREY, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. EHLERS.

H.R. 1707: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.

H.R. 1713: Mr. FILNER and Mr. WATT.

H.R. 1721: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 1728: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 1742: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 1756: Mr. AKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, and Mr. DONNELLY.

H.R. 1757: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, and Mr. SULLIVAN.

H.R. 1773: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. HOEKSTRA.

H.R. 1776: Mr. FARR, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, and Mr. McGOVERN.

H.R. 1778: Mr. REICHERT, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. GALLEGLY.

H.R. 1783: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. McHUGH and Ms. SLAUGHTER. H.R. 1784: Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 1819: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. DELAHUNT.

H.R. 1823: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BERRY, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1873: Ms. FALLIN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. SHULER, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 1877: Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1881: Mr. McNULTY and Mr. SNYDER.

H.R. 1892: Mr. COSTELLO.

H.R. 1927: Mr. FARR, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GOODE, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 1944: Ms. SUTTON, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1964: Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. CASTOR, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. WYNN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. WU, and Ms. CLARKE.

H.R. 1973: Mr. McCOTTER.

H.R. 1975: Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 1980: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. PASTOR.

H.R. 1982: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.J. Res. 14: Mr. MARKEY and Mr. HODES.

H. Con. Res. 7: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. TANCREDO, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. HIRONO.

H. Con. Res. 101: Ms. CLARKE.

H. Con. Res. 102: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Ms. CARSON.

H. Con. Res. 113: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H. Con. Res. 114: Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. CARSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. FATTAH.

H. Con. Res. 121: Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. TANNER, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. SHULER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr.

SPRATT, Mr. KIND, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. HILL, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. DUNCAN.

H. Res. 102: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. NUNES.

H. Res. 117: Mr. STEARNS.

H. Res. 119: Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. WOLF, Mr. BECERRA, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H. Res. 121: Ms. SOLIS, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, and Mr. SHAYS.

H. Res. 194: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio.

H. Res. 216: Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H. Res. 221: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H. Res. 231: Mr. BOEHNER.

H. Res. 257: Mr. PAUL.

H. Res. 272: Mr. HOLT, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H. Res. 281: Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. ARCURI, and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.

H. Res. 289: Mr. LEVIN and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H. Res. 294: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H. Res. 296: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. WAMP, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. FARR, and Mr. SHUSTER.

H. Res. 299: Mr. STARK, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. PORTER.

H. Res. 313: Mr. ISSA, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. GOODE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CARDOZA, and Mr. SPRATT.

#### DELETION OF SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 65: Mr. COLE of Oklahoma.

H.R. 1964: Mr. PORTER.

#### DISCHARGE PETITIONS— ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

*[Inadvertently omitted from the Record of April 20, 2007]*

The following Member added his name to the following discharge petition:

Petition 1 by Mr. JOHNSON of Texas on House Resolution 220: Steve Buyer.